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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, 12th SEPTEMBER, 1938.

Sixth Annual General Meeting; Election of Officers; Annual Report, Etc., Annual Address: "Reasons for Need of Preservation of Native Flora and Fauna."

REPORTS OF MEETINGS:

13th June, 1938:

Address by Mr. L. W. Turner, "History and Traditions of the Maoris."

New Members Elected:

W. J. McConaghie, Q.A.T.B., South Johnstone.

R. Murphy, c/o Cummins and Campbell, Cairns.

11th July, 1938:

Address by Mr. M. Auricchio on "Spiders," illustrated by slides.

New Member Elected:

Mrs. Lang, 148 Abbott Street, Cairns.

8th August, 1938:

Address by Mr. D. P. Moynahan, "Beche de Mer on the Great Barrier Reef."

New Members Elected:

Mr. and Mrs. Crust. 121 Grafton Street, Cairns.

Mrs. Monkman Dempster, Edge Hill.

Mr. J. W. Corbett, 79 Esplanade, Cairns.

PHAEDYMA SHEPHERDI SHEPHERDI AND RAHINDA CONSIMILIS PEDIA.—contd.

By M. J. Manski, F.R.E.S.

Phaedyma shepherdi being very particular to lay her egg on the extreme tip of the perfect leaf, the caterpillar does not worry much about where to pupate but leaves the hiding place amongst the dried portions of leaves and pupates underneath any leaf among the stems.

The caterpillars of both take a long time to grow and are very peculiar in shape. In fact, in outline a drawing of a Scottish terrier is the nearest approach to the shape of them.

The description of each of them is as hereunder:—

Phaedyma shepherdi:—Head: oblong, channelled in centre with two short lateral spiny projections; pale brown in colour darkening to the sides.

Body: Two lateral spiny projections on second segment, two larger spiny projections on third segment curved inwards like the horns of a cow. Two more spiny projections on fifth seg-

ment and two shorter spiny projections on eleventh segment closer together than those of the second, third or fifth segments. Colour: Body dorsally brown and rough with a narrow chocolate band on each side extending from 3rd segment gradually extending upwards to meet at top of 11th segment, embracing the spiny projections. Below this chocolate line, darker brown extending to last segment, which is dark brown. On the 11th segment two yellow spots appear on each side and two larger yellow spots on the 12th segment. On 3rd and 5th and 11th segments a ridge appears which gives the caterpillar its peculiar appearance.

Pupa: Pale brown with very dark markings; hangs suspended by a cremaster; anterior end with two lateral points; wing cases laterally expanded.

Rahinda consimilis pedia:—Head: brown, roughened, no spines with two lateral short projections. Body: Olive green with very short hairs and minute white dots; dorsally on 2nd segment two very short points, on 3rd segment a ridge with a brown point on either side connected by a white line, on 5th segment a much smaller ridge and points but without the white line, on 11th segment another ridge with backward directed points, a dark lateral line from 4th segment to 7th segment when it gradually becomes more dorsal to join the point of 11th segment, below this line generally darker brown.

Pupa: Brown with darker brown markings, on thorax two silver splashes, below each a silver spot, viewed dorsally these silver markings are hard to see, a dark medial dorsal ridge from thorax to posterior end; wingcases expanded laterally, anterior end almost straight.

The food plant is as yet undetermined.

The butterflies are beautifully illustrated and described in "What Butterfly is That?" by Dr. G. A. Waterhouse.

A NEW PTEROMALID FROM NORTH QUEENSLAND.

By A. A. GIRAULT, B.Sc.

The following new species of small Hymenoptera was given to me by an old collector in the North and a former associate and colleague of mine. It is represented by a single specimen. The group is the Chalcidoidea.

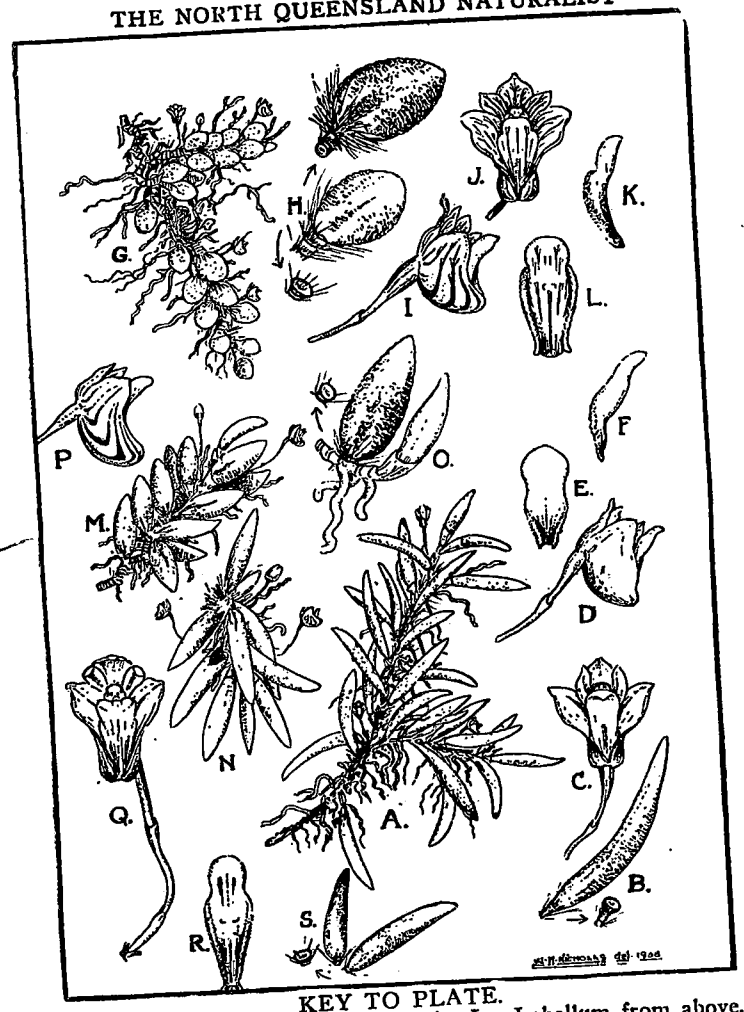
1. **Habrocytus garibaldia** sp. nov.

From **H. australiensis**: Legs pale except bases of the fore and hind coxae; a foveum representing the spiracular sulcus is more like a continuous, widening "gulley" to apex; spiracle wider and shorter; the lateral carina embraces a foveum at its mesal base, is convex and curves meso-distad to the lateral apex of the short neck, then running mesad half-way to the meson, thence up and mesad to meet the median carina; the median carina therefore is longer. Flagellum black with the third funicle segment red-white, funicles nos. 1-4 twice longer than wide, somewhat exceeding the pedicel, no. 6 a bit longer than wide. Stigmal vein long, nearly straight, not two-thirds the length of either of the two other equal ones. Discal ciliation extending proximad of the bend of the submarginal vein and embracing a somewhat diamond-shaped naked area, touching and opposite to the bend (and nearly across). The abdomen is a bit more slender and a bit longer, the segments after no. 3 not so transverse. Cross-suture of the scutellum less indicated. Venation of uniform colour, the submarginal bristles moderate in both species. Parapsidal furrows half-complete in both species but the spine beneath the axilla is shorter here.

A single female specimen, Gordonvale (formerly Nelson), September, 1920, A.P. Dodd.

The Australian species of this genus differ from Ashmead's diagnosis in having both margins of the pronotum acute and scutellum practically simple.

This species is a part of a systematic monograph of the Australian Chalcidoidea; its description is comparative.



KEY TO PLATE.

Small N. Qld. Epiphytes.

Fig. A.—**D. Prenticei**, a typical plant.
Fig. B.—A leaf enlarged, also leaf attachment.
Fig. C.—A flower.
Fig. D.—Flower from side.
Fig. E.—Labellum from above.
Fig. F.—Labellum from side.
Fig. G.—**D. lichenastrum**, a typical plant.
Fig. H.—Leaves, 2 forms enlarged; also showing leaf attachment.
Fig. I.—A flower from side.
Fig. J.—A flower from front.
Fig. K.—Labellum from side.
Fig. L.—Labellum from above.
Figs. M, N—D. ~~dimorphum~~ variabile, two plants, showing variable leaves.
Fig. O.—A section of a plant enlarged also showing leaf attachment.
Fig. P.—A flower from side.
Fig. Q.—A flower from front.
Fig. R.—Labellum from above.
Fig. S.—Leaves of slender form, also showing leaf attachment.

NOTE.—Figures A, G, M, N, much smaller than natural size.

For actual measurements see descriptions.

THREE DIMINUTIVE NORTH QUEENSLAND ORCHIDS.

(Including a New Species).

By W. H. NICHOLLS.

The present paper deals with three Australian epiphytes-diminutive Northern forms bearing very small and solitary flowers (of great beauty, nevertheless) on a slender filiform scape.

Two were described by Mueller. The other, of variable habit, has been illustrated under a wrong name; it is now to appear as a **sp. nov.**

Mueller described his two plants as **Bulbophyllum** species, but they—and the new species also— lack one very important characteristic of that genus, i.e., the more or less well-defined and persistent pseudo-bulb from which arises the usually solitary leaf, hence the name **Bulb-o-phyllum.**

Concerning other generic characters assigned to **Bulbophyllum,** I shall say nothing other than that **these additional features appear to be somewhat inconsistent.**

Present-day Australian systematists have long been keenly interested in the proper classification of these puzzling forms—concerning which nothing has been published—as far as I can discover, since F. M. Bailey's time.

From dried herbarium material, these particular species seem almost intermediate between **Dendrobium,** Sw. and **Bulbophyllum,** Thou., and their presence has occasioned some uncertainty. Their very small size is apt to mislead, unless examined very closely.

Concerning **Bulbophyllum Prenticei,** Mueller writes: In reference to the leaf attachment "Joint below the leaf very short, not forming a regular pseudo-bulb." It is difficult to assign this plant satisfactorily to either **Bulbophyllum** or **Dendrobium.** The general resemblance is to **Bulbophyllum,** but the "expected bulb" is absent, though the labellum in its lobeless condition justifies its somewhat traditional position, yet very little difference (generically) is apparent when comparison is made with the labella of the other two forms. (See Figures).

On the other hand, as a **Dendrobium,** the plant seems out of place; but after a careful study of the "foot stalk" of all three plants—**yet not without some little trepidation**—I have decided to include this species as a **Dendrobium** also. If such a conclusion is not accepted finally, it will, at least, help to focus interest, thus contributing in some degree to the elucidation of a difficult problem.

A careful examination of Mueller's type material in the National Herbarium, Melbourne, and the fortunate possession of ample fresh material brought to flowering stage in a glass house in Melbourne, proves to my own satisfaction that the three forms dealt with in this paper could be very conveniently included under Section **Rhizobium** (following Benthan) of **Dendrobium,** with but slight alteration.

When the tiny flowers of these diminutive plants have to be dissected and minutely examined. it invariably means eye-strain; but even the unaided eye shows that **"irregular pseudo-bulb,"** and **pseudo-bulb reduced to a scarcely prominent circular disk,"** hardly defined the true character of the leaf attachment of the plants which the Baron included under **Bulbophyllum.**

(The two genera are very closely associated. At one time, Mueller (and earlier botanists also) regarded a number of true **Bulbophyllum** as **Dendrobium).**

In two forms **(lichenastrum** and the new species) the leaf is practically sessile, in the other **(Prenticei)** shortly petiolate (a mere rudiment). in the dried state having much the appearance of a shrunken pseudo-bulb, but it has, in the living plant, the same appearance.

This abbreviated stem is of similar character to that in the other two plants here dealt with and identical with leaf attachment in **D. linguiforme,** Sw., **D. cucumerinum,** Ldl., and **D. rigidum,** R. Br., species having somewhat the same appearance, but much larger. Thus the three plants here discussed—in my opinion—should be included under **Dendrobium.**

(To be continued)