

---

**THE**  
**NORTH QUEENSLAND**  
**NATURALIST**  
**CAIRNS**

**Journal of**  
**NORTH QUEENSLAND NATURALISTS CLUB**  
**Founder, Presd. The late Dr. HUGO FLECKER.**

**OBJECTS**—The furtherance of the study of the various branches of Natural History and the preservation of our heritage of indigenous fauna and flora.

**ADDRESS — Box 991, P.O. CAIRNS.**  
**Q. 4870, Australia.**  
**Phone 53 1829.**

**MEETINGS**—Second Tuesday of each month at Oddfellows Hall, Lake Street, 8 p.m.

**FIELD DAYS**—Sunday before meeting. Notice of place and time given in "Cairns Post."

Subscriptions (Due September 30) :

City and Suburban Members, \$2.50.      Country Members, \$2.00  
Junior Members, 50c.

---

Vol. 39

August, 1971.

No. 155.

---

**CONTENTS**

Protection for Kangaroo ... ..	Page 2
Cook's Kangaroo. Joan A. Bree ... ..	Page 2
Wau Ecology Institute ... ..	Page 3
Panelling in Cairns City Council Chambers. K. Cairncross ... ..	Page 3
Some Frogs from Southern Cape York Peninsula. Fred Parker and Charles Tanner. ... ..	Page 4

**"Each Author is responsible for the opinions and facts expressed in his or her article."**

---

0201

Club Officers — September 30, 1970 to September 30, 1971.

President: A. J. CASSELS, Esq.

Hon. Secretary: Mrs. M. L. CASSELS. Hon. Treasurer: Mr. W. HUDDY.

Editor: Miss J. MORRIS.

Patron: Mr. S. E. STEPHENS.

---

---

## **PROTECTION FOR KANGAROO**

On 5th August the "Cairns Post", in a United Press International report from Sacramento, stated that the California Senate has approved legislation to add the kangaroo to the list of endangered species from which no commercial product can be made or sold in California.

Meanwhile, A Sydney man has sent up to Queensland for 2,000 Kangaroo and Wallaby heads to be stuffed for sale to tourists.

oOo

## **COOK'S KANGAROOS**

In Hawkesworth's record of Cook's voyage, the kangaroo illustrated in his first engraving (done from Stubb's painting, Parkinson's sketches and a description by Banks) is identified by H.J. Frith and J. H. Calaby ("Kangaroos") and A. Poignant ("The Improbable Kangaroo") as the eastern euro, *Macropus robustus*.

I suggest that the female antilopine kangaroo, *Macropus antilopinus*, be considered as a possibility here.

About ten months ago we acquired a young antilopine kangaroo doe. My observations over these months find amazing likeness in this etching to my young animal.

She fits the picture almost exactly: similar colouring; long, slender smooth tail unlike the shorter, thicker, much hairier euro tail; smooth feet — no long hairy fringe as the euro has; very slender shoulders, unlike the "chunkier" euro; the shape of the muzzle — longer and more pointed than that of the euro; and most strikingly, the attitude. The young antilopine strikes up this remarkable attitude when she is curious but uncertain about a situation.

Distribution of *M. antilopinus* as indicated by Frith and Calaby includes Cape York Peninsula to south of Cooktown.

Joan A. Bree, Lower Mitcham, S.A.

## WAU ECOLOGY INSTITUTE

The Bishop Museum New Guinea Field Station is shortly to be superceded and incorporated as a local non-profit corporation under the name of WAU ECOLOGY INSTITUTE. It will be directed by a local board of directors, which initially will include the undersigned, to be advised by a group of scientists to be appointed.

The Institute will take over the functions of Bishop Muesum Field Station and will receive a subsidy plus grant field funds and some research personnel salaries from Bishop Museum (Honolulu).

The Institute will develop a free public zoo and associated gardens and operate some agricultural land and rent houses to visiting scientists for partial basic support, such as salaries of Manager and local staff. It will also invite advanced classes in the Territory and research fellows from elsewhere for courses in ecology and for research. Studies already commenced include Ecology and biogeography of Nothofagus insects; Epizoic symbiosis; Ectoparasite/mosquito/host studies.

Michael Robinson and party have been spending a year here studying behaviour of spiders, stick insects and predatory mammals. Other researchers are planning to study here soon.

At this time, to help found the corporation, start the zoo, and arrange fellowships, we would like to solicit individuals and business or other organisations to become shareholders of WAU ECOLOGY INSTITUTE by contributing sums of A\$1.00 or more. This money will be used primarily for construction of cages for the zoo, expanding the arboretum, and for student and research fellowships.

- Mr. Theo Stiller, for the past six years teacher at Banz Lutheran Agricultural School, has been engaged as Manager.

Omas Genora  
J. Linsley Gressitt.  
A. Lloyd Hurrell.  
Michael J. Leahy.  
Henry V. Ohlmus.  
Kenneth P. Lamb  
R.W. Hornibrook.  
J.J.H. Szent - Ivany

March 1971.

---

## PANELLING IN CAIRNS CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Timber panelling in the Cairns City Council Boardroom is Red Cedar, but has been ruined by being stained to appear brown. This timber now carries the botanical name, *Toona australis*. Formerly it was known as *Cedrela toona* var. *australis*.

The counters in the Council Office are constructed of Queensland Maple. Two different timbers are marketed under this name. *Flindersia brayleyana* and *Flindersia pimentelliana*, and there is practically no difference in their appearance. Both are subject to considerable variation in grain effect, depending on the angle at which they are sawn from the log. They are also noted for considerable colour variation.

K. Cairncross, Cairns.

## SOME FROGS FROM SOUTHERN CAPE YORK PENINSULA

### PART 1. — *Bufo*nidae, *Leptodactylidae*, *Microphlidae* and *Ranidae*.

This article lists species of frogs found by us at a series of localities from Cooktown north and west across the peninsula to Edward River Settlement. Collections were made in the rain forest in the Mt. Hartley — Big Tableland area south of Cooktown and in Eucalypt woodlands and forest in the drier centre and west of the Peninsula. A brief description of each species is supported by a photograph which will aid in identification.

This list may not be exhaustive — other species may yet be found in these areas. Again this list cannot be applied to other areas — for example in the Cairns area many other species are to be found. For definite identification any frogs should be preserved in 4% formalin and sent to a state museum along with data including the date and place of collecting and description of the vegetation in the area.

A further sixteen species of tree frogs were collected, and these will be the subject of a later article.

#### *Family Bufo*nidae.

##### *Bufo* *marinus* (Linnaeus) The Cane Toad.

This ubiquitous introduced animal would be well known to naturalists in North Queensland, and is easily distinguished by its large size, rough skin, mottled belly and enlarged glands behind the head. It is common along the east coast but as yet has not spread far into dense rain forest (except along roads and in clearings) or west of the ranges in drier country.

#### *Family Leptodactylidae*

##### *Crinia* sp.

This small undescribed froglet has a number of colour morphs similar to those of *C. signifera* Girard but adult males reach only 17 mm. and the call is a single musical chirp. It is found in the drier areas under leaf litter and other cover beside rivers and lagoons. Overall colour is grey to brown and the belly white.

##### *Cyclorana* *alboguttatus* (Gunther)

##### The Striped Burrowing Frog

A large ground frog found near streams and lagoons west of the ranges. A female from King River measured 80 mm. in body length, males are shorter. It is reported to estivate in burrows during dry periods, and to store water. Usually brown and green above with a pale vertebral stripe.

##### *Cyclorana* *australis* (Gray)

This species is closely related to the Water-holding Frog (*C. platycephalus*) of inland Australia. It is found in sandy areas often well away from water. Yellowish to pale brown above, often with darker mottling. The iris is pale gold above the pupil, brown below, while the belly is white.

##### *Cyclorana* *dahli* (Boulenger)

A large water frog not previously recorded from Queensland. It was found along the lower Edward River on the west coast of the Peninsula.

Growing to at least 53 mm. in length, this species is strikingly adapted to life in water, having a small head with pale silvery eyes set towards the dorsal surface, and stout, heavily webbed hind feet. Dorsal surfaces are olive to green with a pale vertebral stripe and scattered green spots. The belly is deep yellow. This frog appears to spend most of its time in water.

**Limnodynastes convexiusculus** (Macleay)

A blotched olive-grey ground frog growing to about 40 mm. and found in all habitats with the exception of rain forest. The belly is white, and iris pale gold.

**Limnodynastes dorsalis** (Gray)

The Banjo Frog.

A dark brown stout frog with short legs and a rough dorsum. A large oval gland on the upper surface of the tibia distinguishes the species. The dorsum is black and brown and the flanks brown and yellow while there are red areas in the groin and armpit. The belly is yellow. The iris is pale grey-brown. Adults reach about 80 mm. in length.

**Limnodynastes ornatus** (Gray)

The Ornate Burrowing Frog

This small, stout burrowing frog is very common in drier country and is usually associated with sand. Some shade of pale brown above - uniform or with a pale blotch or pale stripes; the belly is white. The iris is silver-grey, the pupil lozenge shaped. Males reach to 35 mm. females to 40 mm.

**Mixophyes schevilli** (Loveridge)

This very large rain forest frog is usually found near rivers. Reddish to brown above with darker blotches. There is a narrow dark line along the upper face and fine dark bars on the legs. Ventral surfaces are cream. Iris red-bronze. The call is a single loud 'Krok'. Males reach 93 mm. females 105 mm.

**Notaden melanoscaphus** (Hosmer)

This species has been found from the ranges west of Cooktown to the west coast of the Peninsula but nowhere else on the Queensland mainland, but Tyler (1967) recorded it from Mornington Is. The large elongated inner metatarsal tubercle is used in digging, this being a burrowing species having a vertical burrow. The dorsal colour is pale grey with a pattern of dark blotches. The iris is silver with black venation. Adults reach about 43 mm.

**Taudactylus acutirostris** (Andersson)

The Tinker Frog

A rain forest dweller, first described from Malanda. Found under leaf litter and near streams, the call is a high 'tink...tink...' Males grow to 23 mm., females to 30 mm. Pale brown above, the lateral surfaces grey to black. Yellow to white below, sometimes with brown spots. The iris gold above and bronzy below the horizontal pupil.

**Uperoleia marmorata** (Gray)

A small rugose ground frog characterised by a pair of enlarged parotoid glands behind the head. The call is a loud, ventriloquial 'krkk'. Males reach 23.5 mm. females 26 mm. Greyish brown above often with darker blotches. Deep red areas in groin and on thighs. Iris silvery. Belly white.

Family Microhylidae

*Cophixalus exiguus* (Zweifel and Parker)

First described as a result of our 1968 collecting, this small frog has been found only in rain forest about 20 miles south of Cooktown. Two closely related species, *neglectus* and *ornatus* are found in the Cairns area. *Exiguus* grows to a length of only 18 mm. and is found under logs and leaf litter in rain forest. Brown above, sometimes with one or two pale stripes. Iris is silvery to pale yellow, the contracted pupil is horizontal with a dark red blotch at each end.

*Sphenophryne fryi* (Zweifel)

A small species reaching 30 mm. in length, found along with the preceding species only in rain forest. Pale to dark red-brown above with finer dark spots. Often there is a pair of pale dorsolateral stripes. Orange to dull red below. The iris is brown.

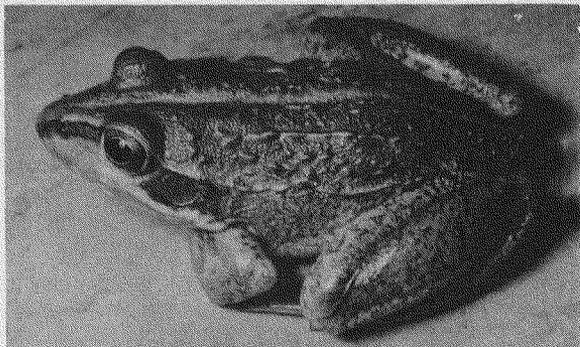
Family Ranidae

*Rana daemeli* (Steindachner)

A large ground frog usually found in rain forest, but occasionally in gum forest. Found along rivers, the species is partly diurnal. Uniform brown above, grey flanks, white underparts. Iris pale gold above, brown below. Grows to over 70 mm. The call is a low quacking sound.

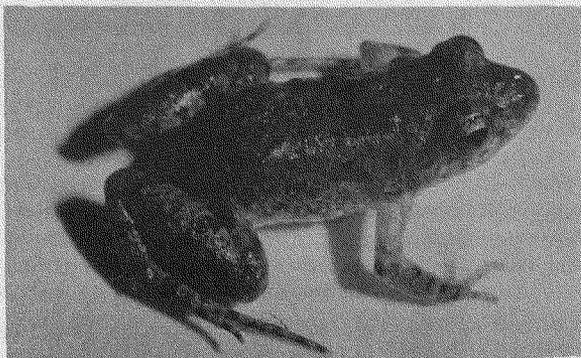
by Fred Parker and Charles Tanner.

X  
CYCLORANA  
ALBOGUTTATUS  
80 mm  
(LAURA)



1. ~~CRINIA SP. (17mm.)~~ — Cooktown.

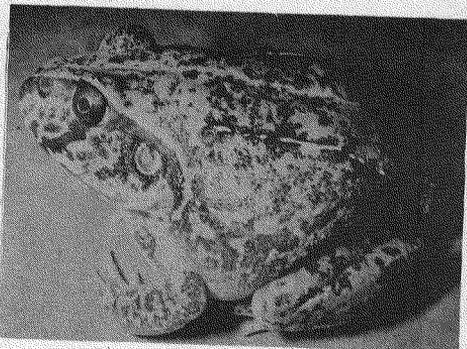
CRINIA SP.  
(17mm)  
COOKTOWN.



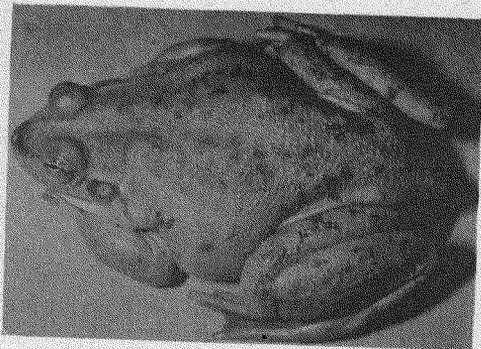
2. CYCLORANA ALBOGUTTATUS:  
(80 mm.) — Laura.

RE-IDENTIFIED BY BILL  
HOSMER.

X



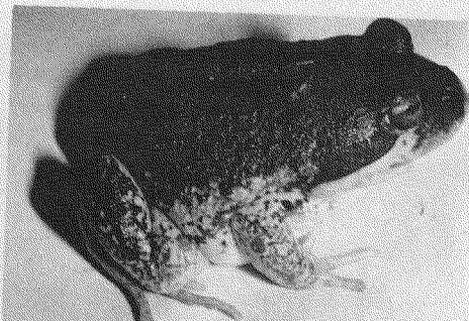
3. *CYCLORANA AUSTRALIS*  
— Edward River.



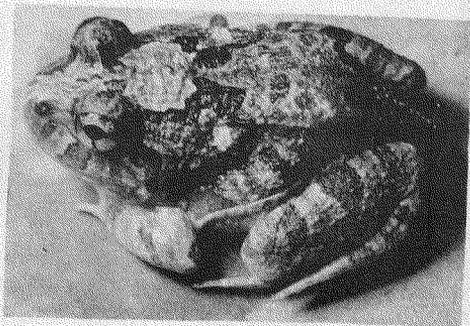
4. *CYCLORANA DAHLI* (53 mm.)  
— Edward R.



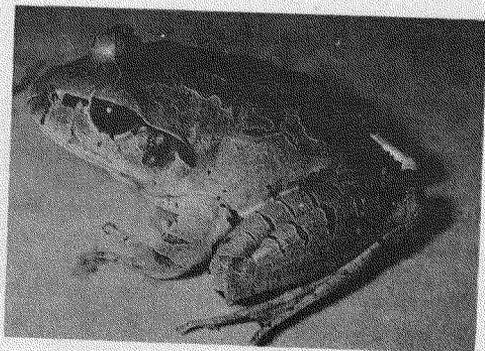
5. *LIMNODYNASTES CONVEXIUS-*  
*CULUS* (40 mm.) — Cooktown.  
(C. Tanner)



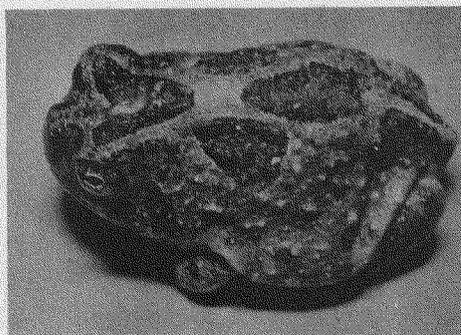
6. *LIMNODYNASTES DORSALIS:*  
(80 mm.) — Cooktown



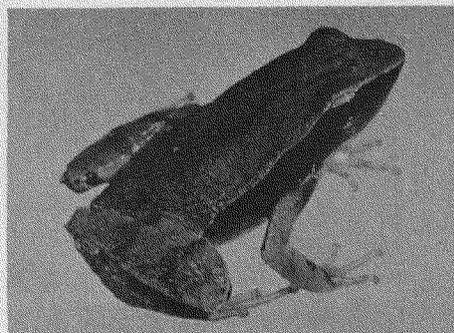
7. *LIMNODYNASTES ORNATUS:*  
(35 mm. to 40 mm.) — Laura.



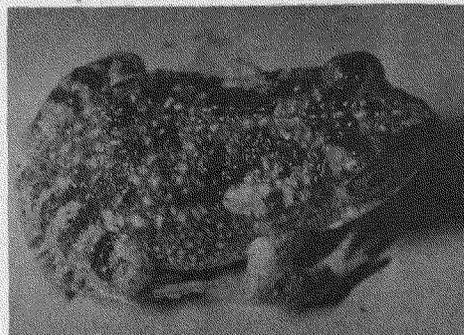
8. *MIXOPHYES SCHEVILLI:*  
(93 mm. to 105 mm.) — Cooktown.



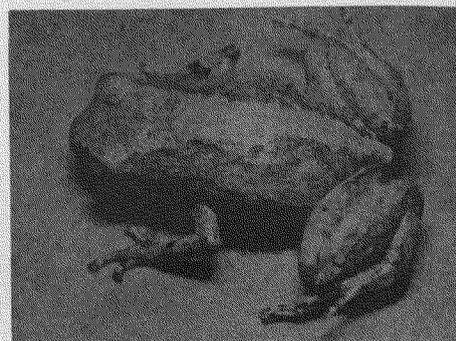
9. NOTADEN MELANOSCAPHUS:  
(43 mm.) — Edward R.



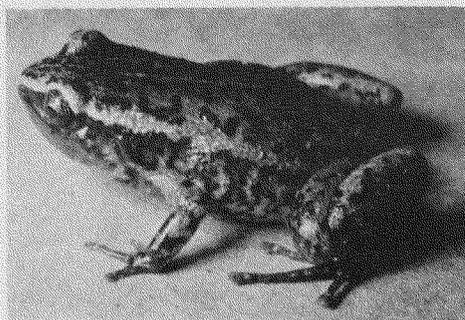
10. TAUDACTYLUS ACUTIROSTRIS:  
(23 mm. to 30 mm.) — Malanda.  
(Dr. H. Cogger.)



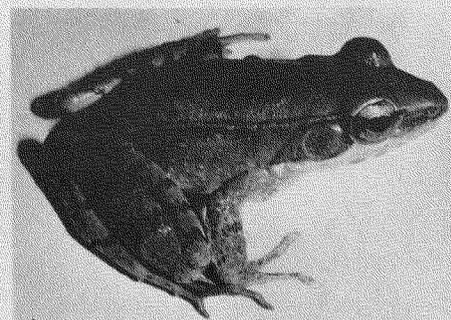
11. UPEROLEIA MARMORATA:  
(23.5 mm. to 26 mm.) — Horn Is.



12. COPHIXALUS EXIGUUS  
(18 mm.) — Cooktown.



13. SPHENOPHRYNE FRYI <sup>PLUVIALI</sup>  
(30 mm.) — Cooktown. (ZWEIFEL)



14. RANA DAEMELI (70mm.) —  
Cooktown.

(All photographs except Nos. 5 and 10 are by F. Parker.)