

The NORTH QUEENSLAND NATURALIST

CAIRNS

Journal of

NORTH QUEENSLAND NATURALISTS CLUB

Box 991, P.O.CAIRNS, Q.4870. Australia.

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Founder President: The late Dr. HUGO FLECKER
International Library No: AT ISSN 0078 1630

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

MEETINGS: Second Tuesday of each month at Oddfellows Hall, Lake Street, 8.00 p.m.

FIELD DAYS: Sunday before meeting. Notice of place and time given in 'Cairns Post'.

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Vol. 43. No. 166

October, 1975.

Price 50c

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

RUNNING RIVER -- HIDDEN VALLEY, 25-28.3.1975.

This area is situated to the west of Mt. Spec near Townsville. It is mostly granite country cut by many creeks and gullies, with much decomposed granite on the hillsides, and sandflats along the larger creeks and rivers. Vegetation consists of open forest country with about ten species of trees and a great variety of shrubs and herbs on the grassy slopes, and different trees and shrubs along the river.

In the following list, R denotes growing on river flats;
S denotes growing on hillslopes.

- *R *Callitris* sp. - tree to 30 ft.
- *R *Casuarina cunninghamiana* - River Sheoak - tree to 20 ft.
- *R *Callistemon* sp. - shrub to 10 ft., leaves short, stiff; only one red flower with yellow tipped stamens.
- *R *Grevillea* sp. - very similar to *G. banksii*; shrub to 10 ft.; still flowering sparsely, cream brushes, seed not quite ripe.
R fam. Proteaceae (possibly *Grevillea* sp.) - shrub to 10 ft.; very narrowly lobed leaves; seed pods 2" long, flat and pendulous, seeds winged.
- *R *Cassia* sp. (or closely related) - shrub to 6 ft.; dark green leaves with small sharp spine at the tip; flowers yellow.
R fam. Proteaceae - tree to 15 ft.; juvenile leaves deeply lobed to 12" long, adult leaves entire; masses of seed pods but only one flower seen, white bottlebrush type.
- R Shrub - 4 ft.; leaves small, linear, 1" long; berries, purple and orange, unusually joined in groups of 4 to 6 on a straight stem parallel to the branch.
- *R *Dodonea* sp. - tree to 20 ft.; leaves leathery, dull, lanceolate (typical of most species of this genus); flowers white, in clusters.
- *R *Malaleuca leucadendron* var. *pendula* (weeping inland form).
- *R Dodder - *Cassytha* sp.
- *R *Acacia* spp. - 3 species, all shrubs.
R *Tristania conferta* var. *fibrosa* - tropical inland form of the Queensland Brush Box.
- *R *Eucalyptus microthera* - Flooded Gum - always found along inland rivers.
- *S *Eucalyptus* sp. - Box.
- *S *Hovea* sp. - Pea bush - purple flowers.
- *S fam. Epacridaceae - possibly *Epacris* sp. - heath to 1 ft.; small, sharp leaves; small bell-shaped flowers in leaf axils, cream, 1/8"; berries 1/4"
- *S *Styphelia* sp. (fam. Epacridaceae) - Beard Heath - differing from the *Epacris* genus in having bearded or hairy edges on its bell-shaped flowers.
- *S *Hiobertia* sp. - Guinea flower.
- *S *Wahlenbergia* sp. - Bluebells.
- *S *Thysanotus* sp. - Fringe-lily.
- R.S. *Xanthorrhoea* sp. - Grass Tree - surprisingly growing on the wet river beds and on well drained slopes, not developing a trunk.

- *S *Persoonia falcata* - Geebung.
- R *Pterogymnum cerasifera* - Burdiken Plum.
- *S *Pimelia* sp. - Riceflower - small herbaceous plant to 12"; flowers white.
- *S *Goodenia* sp. - small shrub; flowers yellow.
- S *Araucaria cunninghamii* - Hoop Pine - these native pines are not found along the Running River but for some strange reason they flourish along Puzzle Creek, which is a tributary of this river. They grow in large stands on steep slopes among the large granite boulders.
- S *Erythrina vespertilia* - Bats-wing Coral Tree.

* * * * *

During my travels through the three eastern states of Australia, I have noticed that the flora of similar habitats, that is decomposed granite slopes or sandstone areas, is also similar. * indicates that species of the same genus are found in the Grampians of western Victoria, which is sandstone. Many are also found in areas such as: Wilsons Promontory (granite); Canberra area (granite); Blue Mountains (sandstone); Carnarvon Gorge (sandstone); Tinaroo Creek Road, Atherton Tableland (granite).

John Van Grieken

INTRODUCTION TO ODONATA OF NORTH QUEENSLAND
(Excerpts from covering letter by Trevor Graves)

On November 10 and December 3, 1974 respectively, I accompanied members of the N.Q. Naturalists Club to Davies Creek and to the Rocks at Freshwater Creek, where I spent much of my time attempting to monitor species of dragonfly found in North Queensland. On my return to England, Mr. Stuart Foster bore much of the hard work of identifying the specimens collected. In the following list, damselfly species in family sequence are succeeded by dragonfly species in family sequence. It includes representatives from most families, notable exceptions being the Aeshnidae and Petaluridae. Even with these omissions it is remarkable how such a rich and diversified dragonfly fauna could be found in such a short time.

We utilised the standard text for keying out the species: "A Handbook of the Dragonflies of Australasia" by F. C. Fraser. We could not fault it for its taxonomic merit. However there were three points with regard to natural history that do not appear to have been mentioned previously:

1. *Pseudocordulia elliptica* being found in the vicinity of lily covered swamps.
2. *Orthetrum migratum* found in copula next to fast running stream.
3. *Orthetrum villosorittatum* said to breed in streams but larvae found and females seen to oviposit in stagnant waterholes.

Whilst in Australia I collected 55 different species of Odonata out of a possible 230, which once again bears out the point of a rich and diversified fauna.

ODONATA OF NORTH QUEENSLAND
by Mr. S. Foster and Mr. T. Graves

SUBORDER ZYGOPTERA

Family Protoneuridae

Subfamily Isostictinae:
Subfamily Protoneurinae:

Oristicta filicola
Nososticta solida
Notoneura solitaria
Notoneura coelestina

Family Coenagriidae

Subfamily Coenagriinae:

Ischnura pruinescens
Ischnura heterosticta
Aciagrion fragilis
Ceriagrion erubescens
Pseudagrion ignifer
Pseudagrion microcephalum

Family Megapoagriidae

Subfamily Argiolestinae:

Argiolestes aureus

Family Amphiterygidae

Subfamily Lestoideinae:
Subfamily Amphiteryginae:

Lestoidea conjuncta
Diphlebia euphaeoides

SUBORDER ANISOPTERA

Family Gomphidae

Subfamily Indictinogomphinae:
Subfamily Gomphinae:

Indictinogomphus australis
Austrogomphus ampiclitus
Austrogomphus doddi
Austrogomphus prasinus

Family Synthemidae

Subfamily Syntheminae:

Eusynthemis nigra nigra
Choristhemis flavoterminata

Family Corduliidae

Subfamily Corduliinae:
Subfamily Macrominae:

Pseudocordulia elliptica
Macromia tillyardi

Family Libellulidae

Subfamily Tetratheminae:

Tetrathemis cladophila
Nannophlebia lorquini eludens
Nannophlebia risi

Subfamily Libellulinae:

Agrionoptera longitudinalis
biseriialis

Subfamily Sympetrinae:

Orthetrum villosovittatum
Orthetrum sabinum
Orthetrum migratum
Diplacodes haematodes
Neurothemis stigmatizans
stigmatizans

Subfamily Rhyotheminae:

Rhyothemis graphiptera

Rhyothemis braganza

Subfamily Pantaliinae:

Pantala flavescens

Hydrobasileus brevistylus

Tramea loewi tillyardi

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If I am to single out any species for special mention, then *Diphlebia euphaeoides* must take the prize as the most beautifully coloured damselfly and *Marcomia tillyardi* the prize for the most difficult to catch! The majority of species identified were thought of as common to this area. However there were a few rare species found and identified, these being:

Argiolestes auereus, *Austrogomphus amphilictus*, *Austrogomphus doddi*, *Pseudocordulia elliptica*, *Orthetrum migratum*, *Raphismia bispina*.

THE ORIGIN OF GENERIC NAMES OF QUEENSLAND RAINFOREST TREES

Having completed the compilation of a series called "The Origin of Generic Names of the Victorian Flora", covering the full range of flowering plants and ferns in that State, I thought it would be of interest to contribute a series to the "North Queensland Naturalist" similar to that appearing regularly in the "Victorian Naturalist". As the latter is a monthly publication and the former is published only two or three times a year, there would not be space for anything more than a selective coverage, especially as the Queensland rain forests are extremely rich in number of genera and species.

The Victorian series was in two parts, Part 1 being devoted to those generic names given in honour of people, usually but not always distinguished botanists or collectors and patrons, and Part 2 to the remainder, under the heading: "Latin, Greek and Miscellaneous". No such division will be made in this Queensland series, but the names will as far as convenient be listed alphabetically. Occasionally the origin and meaning of a familiar name now superseded (reduced to synonymy) will be included, because of its special interest.

The generic names are taken from the 3rd edition (1970) of "Australian Rain-forest Trees" by W. D. Francis, in which up-dated nomenclatural changes have been made by G. M. Chippendale of the Forestry and Timber Bureau. The author of this series was privileged to meet the late Mr. Francis, Qld. Government Botanist 1950-1954, at his Kangaroo Point home, Brisbane, in 1956. Thanks are due to the Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, publishers of this work, for permission to make use of such derivations as are supplied by Mr. Francis.

Further generic names are from "A Card Key to the Rain Forest Trees of North Queensland" by B. P. M. Hyland.

Abbreviations used are: Gk = Greek; Lat = Latin; * = introduced. The first instalment of the series follows.

Acacia. Gk akakia, the name of *A. arabica*, of tropical Africa and western Asia (from akis, a sharp point). Only very few of Australia's 600 species

- are true rain-forest trees, mainly *A. bakeri*, Marblewood or Scrub Wattle. The genus is in family Mimosaceae (virtually a sub-family of Leguminosae).
- Aceratium*. Named by A. P. de Candollo, who must have been reminded of maples, the generic name of the true maples being *Acer*. N.Q. has 5 species, known as kinds of quandong, as are Q. species of *Elaeocarpus*. Both genera belong to family Elaeocarpaceae. Quandongs in southern Australia are species of *Santalum*, in family Santalaceae. Quandong was an aboriginal word for these edible fruits.
- Ackama*. Formed by Allan Cunningham from makamaka, Maori name of a New Zealand species, *A. rosaefolia*. Qld's *A. paniculata* is Rose-leaf Marara, the latter an aboriginal name for the tree in s.e.Q. Family Cunoniaceae.
- Acmena*. Said to be the name of a nymph, or one of the names of Aphrodite (Venus), perhaps derived from Gk akmenos, full-grown, in full vigour. Australian species of *Eugenia* are now referred to this genus, and others to *Syzygium*. *A. smithii*, Lilly-pilly, is also known as Red or White Eungella Gum, from its occurrence in the Eungella Range. Family Myrtaceae.
- Acronychia*. Gk akros, terminal, at the end or edge; onyx, nail, talon, claw; because the points of the petals are curved and look like claws. *A. acidula* is Lemon-wood, and a species shared by Q., N.S.W., and e.V. is known in the south as Yellow-wood, the name in Q. of *Flindersia xanthoxyla*. Cunoniaceae.
- Agathis*. Gk agathis, a ball of thread; from the appearance of the catkin on the female trees, or of the cone to a ball of twine. Q. has 3 species, known as N.Q., S.Q. and Black Kauri, the name kauri being the Maori word for *A. australis*, of North Island, N.Z. Family Araucariaceae.
- Ailanthus*. A Latinization (better Ailantus, but influenced by Gk anthos, flower) by Desfontaines o. sumit, the Moluccan name for **A. glandulosa*, Tree of Heaven (of. Malay kayu langit = sky tree; kayu, wood or tree; langit, sky or heavens). *A. triphysa* (syn. *A. malabarica*). White Bean or White Siris, is native to Q. but extends to India (Malabar Coast), etc. Simaroubaceae.
- Akania*. Gk akan, genitive akanos, a prickly shrub; because the margins of the leaflets are prickly-toothed. Fam. Akaniaceae (monotypic genus and family).
- Alangium*. A Latinization of the name in the Tamil language, alangi (Malabar). Q. species, *A. villosum*, is Muskwood or Black Muskheart. Fam. Alangiaceae.
- Albizia*. After Filippo del Albizzi, a Florentine nobleman who in 1749 introduced *A. julibrissin* into cultivation. Two Q. species are Acacia Cedar (not a good name) and Yellow Siris. Fam. Mimosaceae.
- Alectryon*. Gk alektryon, a cock (possibly alluding to the comb-like crest on the fruit of the type species, *A. excelsus*, Titoki, of N.Z.). One of Qld's 6 species, *A. subscinereus*, extends beyond Twofold Bay (the southern limit given by Francis) to east V. where it grows near Genoa Gorge; it is known as Smooth Rambutan, the latter name being used in Asia for species of *Nephelium*, to which genus the Australian species were formerly referred. Sapindaceae.

HERPETOLOGICAL NOTES

Recent studies on Rain-forest amphibians on Mt. Bartle Frere, Atherton Tablelands side, has revealed the presence of three species of frogs Genus *Cophixalus*, Fam. Microhylidae) which represent new taxa. One of these is a most spectacular form possessing a vivid scarlet-red blotch on the top of the head, followed by a broad median longitudinal stripe to the anal area; it lacks the characteristic pair of ocellate spots of the sacral region associated with the relatively common species, *Cophixalus ornatus*. Two other forms I distinguish as hitherto undescribed species are quite small, but distinctly patterned; they are distinguishable by differences in proportions as well as color and habitat. Unfortunately each of these new forms is to this time represented by a single example. It is hoped to obtain further material of the three forms before I attempt to describe them.

Bill Hosmer

OBITUARY - JAMES BRAVERY

The passing of Jim Bravery on June 30, 1975 took away one of the Tableland's (and indeed one of Queensland's) most versatile characters.

Jim was one of the first soldier-settlers to take up land on the Atherton Tableland and at the time of his death, at the age of 78, was still farming - in partnership with his son - the original block which he had selected in the early twenties. He was the only soldier-settler able to claim this distinction.

In his young days he was a keen footballer, and later he took up golf.

But apart from sport, Jim's real interest was ornithology. He was considered by both Australian and overseas experts to be the world's leading authority on the bird life of the Atherton Tableland.

Yet, although famous in his own particular sphere - he contributed many original papers to scientific journals - Jim was essentially a humble man. His re-discovery of the Oriental Cuckoo in 1962, he shrugged off as "an interesting observation", yet it was the first confirmed sighting since 1908.

A humane man, he never killed to carry out his researches. He was visibly distressed when, almost twenty-five years ago, he observed what he believed to be a sub-species of the Horsfield Bushlark and to confirm the discovery, specimens had to be taken for museum examination. The only museum specimen extant at the time was in New York! A tightly timed operation involved road transport from the Tableland and re-packing of the specimens in dry-ice in Cairns by members of the N.Q. Naturalists' Club for dispatch by air to Brisbane. The Museum, and Science, obtained their research material. Jim's only comment was, "I'd never do it again."

He loved birds. He had seen the Tableland change from a close-growing rainforest to open country as the settlers cleared their corn-land and established dairy farms. Over the years he had watched the scrub-birds diminish and the birds of the open forest and heathlands move in. The ponding of Tinaroo Dam gave him an extended interest as he patiently listed, after positive identification, the advent of the "New Tablelanders" to the man-made

Despite his dedication to his hobby, Jim gave freely of his time and remarkable ability to civic projects.

All who knew him will mourn his passing.

NOTES IN BRIEF

Members will note, regretfully, inevitably, the increased subscription rates, following the steep increase in postal charges. Ordinary membership now is \$4.00 and for country members \$3.50.

Our sincere thanks to those members who have generously added a little extra donation to their subscriptions in recent months. Such gestures contribute to the morale of your sorely tried committee as well as to Club funds!

Please, may we have some more contributions for the Journal?

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Printed by HISINE TECHNIQUE, Herberton