

37

80

The North Queensland Naturalist

The Journal and Magazine of the North Queensland Naturalists' Club

Vol. III. No. 10

CAIRNS, JULY 1935

Serial No. 34

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 MONTHLY MEETING—
Monday, 8th July, 1935

1. Minutes.
2. Correspondence and Reports.
3. Election of Members.

Mr. R. F. G. Fogarty, Esplanade, Cairns
Mr. A. B. Mills c/ P. J. Doyle Ltd.
Lake Street, Cairns.

PROPOSER
Mr. Wyer
Mr. Wyer

SECONDER
Dr. H. Flecker
Dr. H. Flecker

4. Nominations for Membership.
5. General Business.
6. Remarks by Exhibitors.

It is particularly desired that members having interesting specimens should exhibit them at the Club's meetings, make a few remarks on them and furnish written particulars for record purposes. Brief descriptions should accompany exhibits for the benefit of fellow-members.

7. Subject for the Evening—

Lecture by Mr. W. F. Tierney; "Orchids; The Rise and Progress in Culture"

Office Bearers for 1934-35

President: Dr. H. Flecker, M.B., F.R.C.S., etc.

Vice-Presidents: Capt. W. Fish, Miss M. E. Hooper

Hon. Librarian: Mr. H. Purcell

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. R. J. Gorton.

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

Hon. Assistant Secretary: Mr. Michael Sergeant

Committee: Messrs M. Auricchio, J.P., J. McAuliffe, J. G. Brooks,
T. P. Walsh

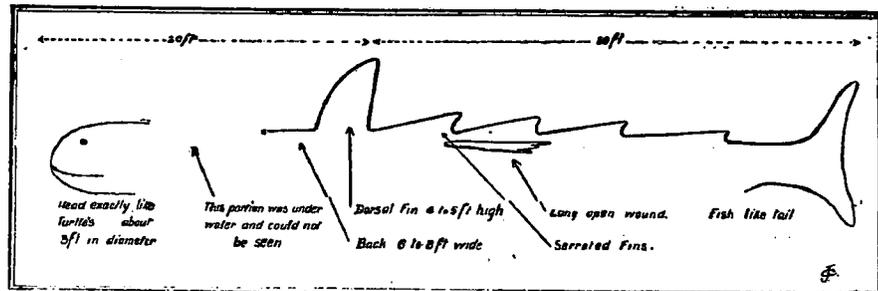
Unidentified Sea Animal

A series of newspaper reports of a strange animal seen was recorded thus:—

Innisfail, 15th Aug., 1934. A fishing party comprising Messrs W. Chung, P. Ogden, E. Ogden, E. How Kee, B. Clark and B. Crimmin had a strange experience yesterday morning when they were at a spot three miles from Mourilyan Harbour, and more than twice that distance from Flying Fish Point. The party aver that they sighted what was a specimen of sea serpent and in the light following the dawn they had a good view of this weird marine visitor. According to accounts brought by them to Innisfail, the sea was very calm, when without warning the monster suddenly appeared some little distance from the launch. It had a weird head, whilst its neck resembled a snake in its sinuous twistings. The head waved backwards and forwards above the surface for some little time, and it was estimated the full length of this marine visitor was about 50 feet. The rest of the body from the head down could be seen on the surface of the sea. After viewing the fishermen the "apparition" began to swim slowly and a few seconds later it was submerged, only to reappear a few minutes later. On this occasion it was in considerably closer proximity to the boat. The repulsive appearance of this denizen of the deep coming nearer to the party caused them some little apprehension. The sea serpent did not come right up to them but started swimming around in circles during which it made peculiar sounds which were distinctly heard. Then the strange thing stopped swimming and lay almost motionless on the surface of the sea, giving those on board the boat an excellent view of it. A little later the sea serpent started swimming out to sea and continued in that direction till it was lost to view. Some of the party declare that the monster had a head like a turtle and its eyes were small, and protruding teeth. The back of this strange marine creature seems to have a considerable number of spikes protruding from it.

Word was also received that some people who were engaged fishing near Flying Fish Point yesterday morning some miles from where the big marine specimen was first seen, also observed something very strange out to sea. It did not look like a whale, but was some extraordinary form of marine life.

The accompanying drawing was made by one of the eye witnesses, Mr. E. How Kee.



Later reports are the following:—

81

Townsville Daily Bulletin, 20th August, 1934. A little group of Townsvillites—two men and a 9-year-old boy—who went out into Cleveland Bay on Sunday (19th) believe that it has sighted the strange monster; otherwise they declare, there is another denizen of the deep which they have seen. The Townsville party set out on Sunday morning in a 14 feet motor launch, intending to drop anchor and fish at the Fairway Beacon at the entrance to the Platypus Channel, which is about 4 miles from the breakwater heads. When nearing the the beacon, the boy drew attention to a dark object which was to be seen about 400 yards to the eastwards of the beacon. It was taken to be a whale, of which a number have been seen in our waters. The launch continued on its journey and a little later the anchor was thrown a short way out from the beacon. The object still remained above water, standing possibly 8 feet out. It was clearly a head, resembling more that of a huge turtle than anything else, and slightly arched. Further along, 3 small dark objects were seen, possibly a foats length apart, giving the appearance of a monster of the sea with a series of humps. The object was seen for about 20 minutes: then it submerged, and soon after rose again. The party watched it for a little longer, and then decided to return to town, to land the boy, and endeavor to secure a camera. It looked as if it might remain there all day.

Two pressmen, armed with cameras, promptly joined the fishermen, and the launch returned to the bay. The boat cruised around in the vicinity in which the monster was seen and remained there for some hours, but without catching a glimpse of it. When the launch was returning into the bay, the steamer "Marella" steamed in and anchored outside the Fairway. Perhaps it disturbed the creature.

Bowen, 24th August, 1934. The North Queensland sea monster has been seen again—this time by Mr. H. Hurst, a well-known Bowen fisherman. He was on his way to Bowen with a load of fish, when he saw a dark object on the surface of the water, which he pointed out to his companions, Messrs C. Hurst and J. Ayles. The sea was dead calm at the time. While they were watching, the creature suddenly raised its head 8 to 10 feet out of the water. They then saw that it was a huge kind of snake, about 30 to 35 feet long. It had a head like a turtle and a body like a big ribbed hose. The party did not stop the launch, as they had no rifle on board. The monster was in the vicinity of Gloucester Passage, and when last seen was heading towards Sinclair Bay, which lies at the opposite side of the harbour from Bowen, about 16 miles distance.

Book Review

INSECT WONDERS OF AUSTRALIA, by Keith C. McKeown, Asst. Entomologist Australian Museum, Sydney. 252 pp., 31 fotogr. illustrations. Publ. by Angus and Robertson, Ltd., Sydney. 6s.

In his preface, the author states that the illustrations form a series of pictures of living insects which can hardly be rivalled by any similar work produced in other countries. There is little doubt that this claim is true. The text is written in a delightfully interesting style, easily read and understood, even by those who know nothing about insects and absolutely free from any technicalities. This book is certain to create greater interest in a truly wonderful world and can be recommended to everybody even though they may confess to having no interest at all in "wogs" of any sort.

Excursions

The President of the Cairns Alpine Club invites members to the following excursions:—July 14, Budabadoo. July 28, Rail to Kuranda to Buchan's Point via Double Is. Lookout. Fare 3/.

Full information from Mr. Ian T. Higlett, Bank of N.S.W., Cairns

Addenda et Corrigenda

(Figures after plants indicate flowering months)

Vol. 1

No. 9, p. 5—*Hibbertia longifolia*. Add mo. 12.

Add loc. Herberton (Bates)

P. 6—After *Himantandra* add F.v.M.

No. 10, p. 5—After *Flacourtia* add L'Heritier.

After (F.) *cataphracta* add Rolfe.

After *Scolopia* add Schreber.

After *Brassica* add Tournefort.

After *Rinorea* add Aublet.

Drosera spatulata. Add mo. 12.

Add loc. Brown's B. (Flecker).

P. 6—Add (F.M.B.) after following locs:

Kayea Larnachiana. Mossman R.

Calophyllum inophyllum, All except Palm. I.

Polygala leptalea. All.

P. arvensis. Endeavour R. southward.

Bredemeyera secunda. Both.

B. excelsa. Ranges about Rockingham B.

Melia azedarach v. australasica. After loc. Green Is. add (Wright).

After loc. Mulgrave R. add (F.M.B.)

Add (F.M.B.) after following locs:—

Dysoxylum latifolium. Is. off Rockingham B.

D. Pettigrewianum. Scrubs at base of Bellenden Ker.

D. Schiffneri. Harvey's Cr.; Russell R. Scrubs.

Before (D.) *smooroides* add

(D.) *sericiflorum*, White. 5.

Atherton (Mocatta).

For (D.) *cerebriforme* (Bail.) read *amooroides*, Miq.

Add mo. 1.

Add locs. Mowbray R. (Brass); Barron R. (Cowley); Mulgrave R. (F.M.B.) Babinda (Illingworth); Johnstone R. (Hording).

Add (F.M.B.) after following locs:—

Aglaiia elaeagnoides. Is. of G. of Carpenteria; Entrance Is.; Endeavour Str.

No. 11, p. 4—*Tribulus cystoides*. Add mos. 7 and 12.

Add loc. Michaelmas Cay (Flecker).

P. 8—*Glochidion ferdinandi*, var. *mollis*. Add mo. 11.

Add loc. S. Mossman R. (Flecker).

No. 12, p. 6—After (*Mallotus*) *nesophilus* add (F.v.M.)

Vol. 2, p. 12—*Semecarpus australiensis*. Add mo. 10.

Add (F.M.B.) after all locs. except Annan R.

P. 18—*Polygonum attenuatum*. Add mo. 12.

Add loc. Kuranda (Flecker).

P. 22—Before *Rumex* add

(P.) *praetermissum* Hook, f. 6. Cairns (Flecker).

Boerhaavia diffusa. Add mo. 12.

Add loc. Michaelmas Cay (Flecker).

For (*Pisonia*) *Brunoniana*, Endl., read *umbellifera* (Forst.). Seem. 11.

Add loc. Mossman Gorge (Flecker).

P. 24—*Jacksonia purpurascens*. Add mo. 12.

Add loc. Herberton (Bates).

Vol. 3, p. 3.—*Crotalaria striata*. Add nos 1, 3 and 10.

P. 4—For GONYSYLACEAE read GONYSTYLACEAE.

P. 7—For (*Stylosanthes*) *mucronata*. Willd. read (S.) *sundaica*. Travnt. 5

Add loc. Cairns (Flecker).

P. 27—*Mucuna gigantea*. Add mo. 5.

Add loc. Edge Hill (Morris).

P. 31—*Vigna lanceolata*. Add loc. Mt. Mulligan (Flecker).

For (*Dolichos*) (*biofrus*). l. Malkan read (D.) (*buflorus*, L. Malkan.

P. 32—For (A.) *rigosus* read (A.) *rugosus*

Census of North Queensland Plants (continued)

(Figures after plants indicate flowering months)

Pterolobium, R.Br.

nitens, F.v.M.

Mt. Mueller, nr. Edgecombe B. (Dall.)

Dioclea, L.

reflexa, Hook. 12.

Range Rd. (Kajewski)

Cajanus, DC.

cajan (L.) Millsp. Pigeon Pea. 8.

Range Rd. (Flecker)

Cassia, L.

Brewsteri, F.v.M. 9 and 10.

Bloomfield R. (Francis) Pt. Denison (Bowman)

var. sylvestris, F.M.B. Mowei

Kamerunga (Cowley) Cardwell (R.B.H.)

laevigata, Willd. Arsenic Bush. Trop.

Amer. and Afr.

Atherton Table. Area (White); Rockingham B. (F.v.M.)

Sophera, L. var. *schinifolia*, Benth.

Rockingham B. southw. (Dall); Burdekin R. (F.v.M.)

occidentalis, L. Coffee Senna. Afr.

Atherton Table. (White); Endeavour R. nr. Cooktown (McDougall)

alata, L. Ringworm Scrub. Ind.

Pt. Douglas (F.M.B.); Barron R. Dist. (Cowley)