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The North Queensland Naturalist

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No. 63

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, 9th SEPTEMBER, 1940 :-

Eighth Annual General Meeting, Election of Officers, Annual Report, Etc.
Annual Address: The Museum.

10th June, 1940:

Lecture by Mr. R. Collett, "Fiji,"
illustrated by lantern slides.

8th July, 1940.

New Member Elected:
Jack Meade, 49 Smith Street,

Cairns, as junior member.

12th August, 1940.

New Members Elected:
Dr. R. A. Robinson, Hides Hotel,
Cairns.

Mr. E. Markham, Babinda.

BOOK REVIEW.

15. FISHES OF AUSTRALIA.
The Fishes of Australia, Part 1. The
Sharks, Rays, Devil Fish and Other
Primitive Fishes of Australia and New
Zealand by Gilbert Percy Whitney,
Ichthyologist, Australian Museum,
Sydney; 280 pp., 303 figured illus-
trations. Published by the Sydney and
Melbourne Publishing Co. Pty. Ltd.
for the Royal Zoological Society of
New South Wales. Price 7/6. This
is written in quite popular language and
gives not merely descriptions of the
fish, together with their habits and

some interesting notes regarding the
individuals, but much additional in-
formation concerning attacks of sharks,
their capture, listing specific casualties
by these creatures, history, anatomy,
classification, etc. A glossary of tech-
nical terms is added. The book will
certainly appeal to fishermen, especially
those interested in sharks to whom
it will be an important reference,
whilst to students of natural history
and scientists generally, it will be
treasured for the very useful infor-
mation which it contains.

**BULBOPHYLLUM BAILEYI, F. Muell. et
BULBOPHYLLUM PUNCTATUM, R. D. Fitzgerald.**

By W. H. NICHOLLS, of Melbourne.

(Communicated by Dr. H. FLECKER).

Concerning B. BAILEYI, F. Muell.

This interesting Australian species which is not, by the way, small of stature like so many other members of the genus in Australia, was first described by the Baron in his "Fragmenta Phytographiae Australiae" (Vol. IX (1875), p. 5).

I have received specimens of *B. Baileyi* from the Mt. Fox district (via Ingham) in North Queensland (A. Glindeman, Coll.); also from Dr. H. Flecker, of Cairns. These latter were collected by Dr. H. Flecker at Middle Creek, growing vertically upward on bark of tree in the rain forest near Green Hill in the Gordonvale district (also in North Queensland), 14th January, 1940.

All the specimens so far secured have been, more or less fragmentary, e.g., small pieces bearing one or two leaves; such are difficult (if not impossible) to cultivate and bring to flowering condition in Melbourne. Only from the last specimen sent down (Dr. Flecker's specimen, No. 6541) have I been able to produce flowers—an easy task when we consider the specimen—a healthy piece possessing three leaves, also two well-developed buds, which opened in a heated glass house on January 17th, 1940, a day or two after the receipt of the plant.

The flowers of *B. Baileyi* are really beautiful with their finely-marked (spotted) perianth-segments and remarkably formed labellum.

Description of B. BAILEYI, F. Muell.

Rhizome creeping, often forming extensive masses on the stems and

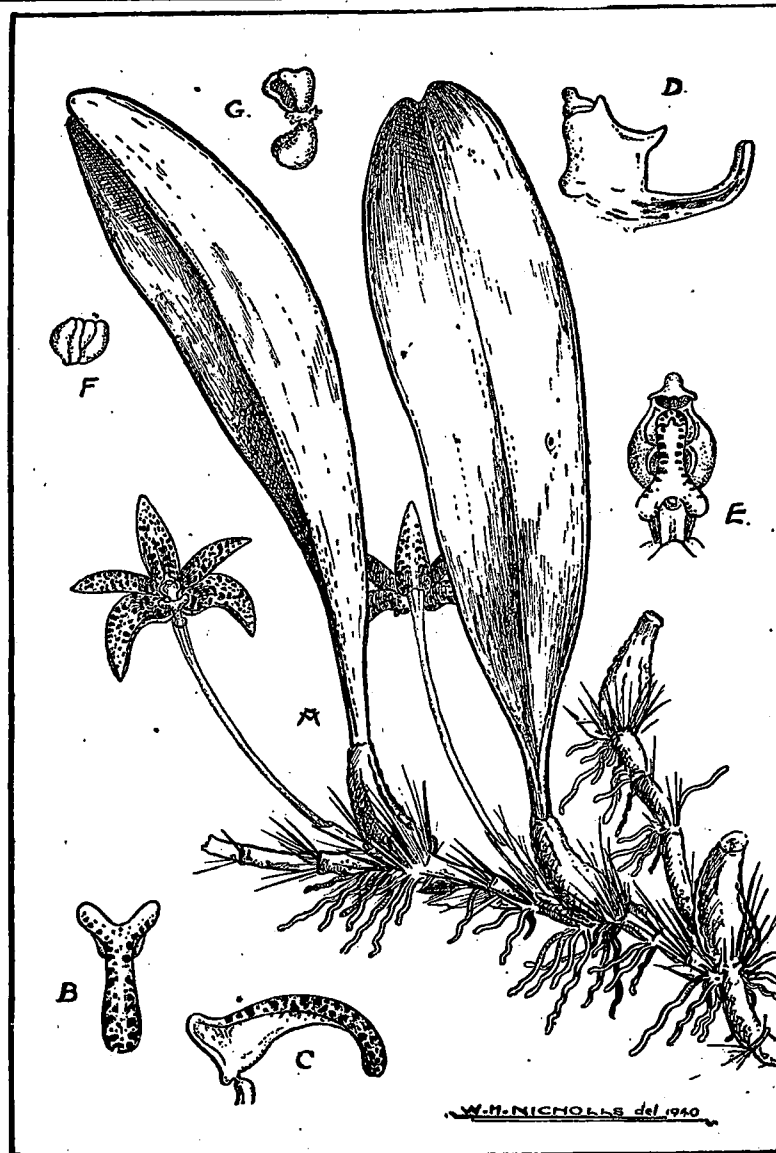
branches of tropical trees. Pseudobulbs short and angular. Leaves 5.20 cm. long, rather thick, channelled, the apex obliquely emarginate. Pedicel about 5.6 cm. long. Flowers pale yellow—about 4 cm. in diameter, spotted with a purplish colour on both sides. Dorsal sepal lanceolate; lateral sepals falco-lanceolate.

Petals shorter and narrower than sepals. Labellum linguiform, thick, obtuse, arched, spotted, channelled below. Column thick, the lateral wings toothed at the top, column foot arched, about as long as the column itself.

It is interesting to note that Fitzgerald described a *Bulbophyllum* species under the name *Bulbophyllum punctatum* in "Britten's Journal of Botany." Vol. XXI, p. 205 (1883). Habitat: Cape York, North Queensland.

Incidentally, descriptions under both names appear in "The Queensland Flora," Part V (1902), F. M. Bailey (Pp. 1536-1540 respectively). Here the colour of the flowers of *B. Baileyi* is not mentioned, other than sepals "spotted with purple on the outside, white on the inside. Petals . . . spotted like the sepals." Whilst *B. punctatum's* blooms are described as being "dull yellow spotted with red brown."

Fitzgerald's illustration in Vol. 2, Part 5 of "Australian Orchids" (under *B. Baileyi*, F. Muell.) is in keeping with his published description of *B.*



BULBOPHYLLUM BAILEYI, F. Muell.

KEY TO FIGURES:

- a. Typical specimen from Middle Creek near Green Hill, Gordonvale district (Dr. H. Flecker).
 - b. Labellum from front.
 - c. Labellum from side.
 - d. Column from side.
 - e. Column and Labellum from front (Labellum raised).
 - f. Pollen masses.
 - g. Pollen masses with a definite, but irregular viscid attachment—possibly an accidental occurrence in *Bulbophyllum*?
- For natural size of Fig. A, see description.

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punctatum (already alluded to). This plate shows the flowers dull yellow, generously spotted on both sides of perianth. Facing this particular plate is the description of *B. Baileyi*, the same (practically) as appearing in Bailey's "Queensland Flora."

Mueller in his initial description (in Latin) in his "Fragmenta," proves conclusively that the colour of the flowers of *B. Baileyi* are yellow, spotted with purple.

Fitzgerald's plate (already referred to) in "Australian Orchids" is dated "1891." Fitzgerald died in 1892. I mention this because Fitzgerald does not figure or mention his *B. punctatum* in his monumental work ("Aust. Orch.") or again refer to it in any other publication; apparently he realised that but the one species was concerned, viz.:— *B. Baileyi*, F. Muell., the description of which was published eight years prior to that of his *B. punctatum*.

Mueller's type material of *B. Baileyi* is in the National Herbarium, Melbourne. The dried flowers have kept their original pale yellow ground colour, the other markings (spots, etc.) which were originally purple (really

the markings vary from purple to red-brown according to the depth of ground colour beneath (W.H.N.) have turned to red, but it should be said here that the fine dots on both surfaces of the perianth-segments have almost faded out—being apparent only along the margins. This is plain, also, in the writer's material—the flowers of which were originally so generously marked.

From the above notes, it is clear that *B. punctatum* of Fitzgerald must be, in future, regarded as synonym of *B. Baileyi*, F. Mueller.

Distribution: North Queensland.

Habitats:

1. Cape York (Fitz. under *B. punctatum*).
2. Trinity Bay (Fitzgerald).
3. Middle Creek near Green Hills, Gordonvale district (Flecker).
4. Bellenden Ker Ranges (Fitzgerald).
5. Mt. Bartle Frere (Mrs. L. C. Smith).
6. Herberton (Fitzgerald).
7. Mt. Fox, via Ingham (A. Glindeman).
8. Rockingham Bay (Fitzgerald).
9. Murray R., Tully (A. N. Burns, Dec., 1935), alt. 1,880 feet.