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**North Queensland Naturalist**

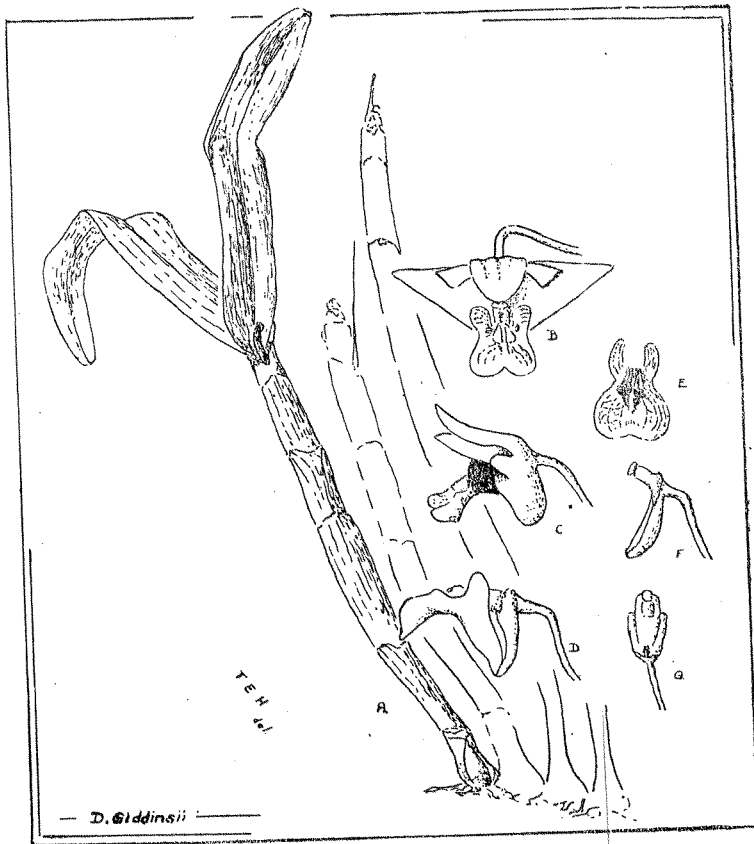
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**FAMILY ORCHIDACEAE**  
**A NEW SPECIES FROM NORTH QUEENSLAND.**  
**Trevor E. Hunt, Ipswich.**



**DENDROBIUM GIDDINSII** Hunt.

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| A. Plant approx. two-thirds natural size. | E. Labellum from front. |
| B. Flower from front.                     | F. Column from side.    |
| C. Flower from side.                      | G. Column from front.   |
| D. Labellum and column.                   | (B to G enlarged).      |

**Dendrobium Giddinsii** sp. nov.  
 Pseudobulbi fusiformes, circa 10 cm. alti. Folia 2-3 late-lineararia, emarginata, circa 8 cm. longa. Racemi 2-3. Flores 2-5, circa 2.5 cm. lati, pedicelli 1.5 cm.

longi. Sepala et petala flavido-virida. Sepalum dorsale lanceolatum, acutum; sepala lateralia triangula; calcar latum, obtusum; petala late-lineararia acuta. Labellum sepalis longius, trilo-

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batum, recurvatum; lobi laterales, ampli, erecti, obtusi, lineis purpureis; lobus intermedius amplus, obcordatus, viridus, lineis purpureis; lamina lineis duabus albis vel purpureis erectis et circulis duobus ad frontem. Columna 4 mm. alta, alba, anthera flava; pes columnae 6 mm. longus.

Pseudobulbs crowded, fusiform about 10 cm. high and 7 mm. in diameter, the younger ones covered with the whitish scarious remains of thin sheathing bracts. Leaves two or three from the uppermost nodes, broad-linear, unequally bidentate, about 8 cm. long and 1 cm. wide, keeled with several prominent ribs on each side of the mid-rib. Racemes from the upper nodes, about 3 cm. long, few-flowered. Flowers about 2.5 cm. across on pedicels 1.5 cm. long. Sepals and petals a uniform yellowish green, thick in texture. Dorsal sepal lanceolate, acute, projecting forward over the column and more or less parallel to the labellum; lateral sepals triangular, spreading; spur broad, obtuse; petals broad-linear, acute. Labellum somewhat longer than the other segments, 3-lobed, recurved; lateral lobes large, erect, obtuse, pale green heavily marked with dull purple; mid-lobe large, obcordate, green heavily lined with dull purple; plate with two erect, white or purplish lines of calli dividing and sub-dividing towards the mid-lobe where they terminate in two broad clusters. Column

about 4 mm. high, white, with several processes beside and behind the anther; anther yellow with a green tip; stigma prominent; column foot about 6 mm. long stained with purple. —Hartley Creek, North Queensland. R. Giddins, April, 1947.

Two plants of this species were received from Mr. J. H. Wilkie of Babinda, in May, 1947, and placed in the author's glass house where they continued to grow well. One bloomed early in November and the other is now in bud in December. Towards the end of October Mr. Wilkie forwarded another plant in bloom. The last constitutes the type specimen.

Its habit, the thick texture of its floral segments, the lasting quality of its flowers, the shape of its labellum, and its colouration suggest an affinity with the beautiful New Guinea species *D. atroviolaceum*.

The flowers evidently last a considerable time as those on the author's plant showed no sign of withering almost a month after opening when they were removed for pressing. In them the purple colouration was very dull, a greyish purple, whereas in those received in October the colour was not only clear and rich, but there was more of it.

This attractive species has been named in honour of its discoverer. Mr. R. Giddins, an orchid enthusiast of North Queensland.

### SOME NORTH QUEENSLAND COLEOPTERA AND THEIR FOOD PLANTS

J. G. BROOKS, B.D.Sc., F.R.E.S.,

This paper is based on my own collecting experience in the Cairns, Kuranda, and Mareeba districts during the past two seasons. Most of the specimens listed belong to the popular families, due firstly to the fact that it is easier to obtain identifications for such families; and secondly, the paper should thus prove of interest to a greater number of collectors, and may act as a guide to any who may visit North Queensland. Not all specimens taken have been listed due to difficulties in obtaining identifications, and even specimens in the popular

families are still on the "waiting list" for further attention as literature becomes available. Many of the species listed, particularly Buprestidae and Cetoniinae, have been taken only in small numbers, due principally to the height of the trees which they frequent.

I am indebted to the following for their assistance with the identifications:—Messrs. Keith C. McKeown, F.R.Z.S., J. W. T. Armstrong, H. Hacker, F.R.E.S., W. du Boulay, H. Jarvis, J. H. Buzacott, M.Sc., and the late H. J. Carter, B.A., F.R.E.S.,—

Coleoptera; and Mr. S. E. Stephens—Botanical specimens. Where standard trade vernacular names for trees have been proposed by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research these names are shown in brackets following the locally recognised name if the vernaculars are at variance.

#### BLOODWOOD. (RED BLOODWOOD).

*Eucalyptus gummifera* (Gaertn.) Hochr.

##### Family BUPRESTIDAE.

*Calodema plebeja* Jord.  
*C. regalis* L.&G.  
*Metaxymorpha gloriosa* Blkb.  
*M. hauseri* Thery.  
*Curis viridleyana* Fairm.  
*Themognatha carpentariae* Blkb.  
*T. regia* Blkb.  
*Castiarina alternata* Lumh.  
*C. biguttata* Macl.  
*Castiarina horni* Kerr.  
*C. maculiventris* Macl.  
*C. neglecta* Cart.  
*C. rollei* Kerr.  
*C. venusta* Cart.

##### Family SCARABAEIDAE.

*Lomaptera cinnamomea* Raffr.  
*L. duboulayi* Thoms.  
*Eupocilia australis* Don.  
*Lyrphora velutina* Macl.  
*Ablacopus ater* Schock.  
*A. trapezifer* Thoms.  
*A. taeniatus* Schock.  
*Trichaulax trichopyga* Thoms.  
*T. phillipsi* Scheib., var. *maclayi* Kraatz.  
*Polystigma octopunctata* Burm.  
*P. punctata* Don.  
*Cacachroa decorticata* Macl.  
*Schizorrhina atropunctata* Kirby, var. *immaculata* Lea.  
*Glycyphana brunripes* Kirby.  
*Pocillopharis emilia* White.

##### Family CERAMBYCIDAE.

*Stenocentrus ostricella* Newm.  
*Syllitus grammicus* Newm.  
*Demomisis filum* Pasc.  
*Chlorophorus curtisi* L. & G.  
*Aridaeus heros* Pasc.

##### Family DERMESTIDAE.

*Anthrenocerus signatus* Armst.

##### Family CLERIDAE.

*Phlogistomus corallipes* Chev.  
*P. foveicollis* Macl.  
*Tarsostenodes guttulus* White.  
*Eleale intricata* Kl.

*E. lepida* Pasc.

*E. viridis* Guer.

*Phlogistomorpha sculptus* Macl.

All these species are taken from the blossom, which appears between January and March.

#### NARROW-LEAVED IRONBARK. *Eucalyptus racemosa* Cav.

##### Family BUPRESTIDAE.

...*Themognatha regia* Blkb.  
*Castiarina biguttata* Macl.

##### Family SCARABAEIDAE.

*Eupocilia australis* Don.  
*Polystigma punctata* Don.  
*Cacachroa decorticata* Macl.  
*Glycyphana brunripes* Kirby.

##### Family CERAMBYCIDAE.

*Sisyrium apicale* Cart.  
*Stenocentrus ostricella* Newm.  
*Syllitus grammicus* Newm.  
*Chlorophorus curtisi* L. & G.

All taken from blossom in January.

#### CADAGA. *Eucalyptus Torrelliana* F.M.

##### Family BUPRESTIDAE.

*Castiarina octosignata* Cart.  
*C. rollei* Kerr.  
*C. venusta* Cart.

##### Family CERAMBYCIDAE.

*Syllitus unistriatus* McKeown.

Taken from blossom, September and October.

#### RED MESSMATE. (RED MAHOGANY). *Eucalyptus pellita* F.M.

##### Family LUCANIDAE.

*Cacostomus squamosus* Newm.  
*Neolamprina mandibularis* Macl.

These beetles are foliage eaters and are taken from the young shoots at the tops of small to medium trees. January to March.

#### CANDLENUT. *Aleurites moulucana* Willd.

##### Family CERAMBYCIDAE.

*Glenea picta* Voet., var. *finschi* Kuntz.

The larvae of this beetle live in the trunks of the trees and the adults emerge about the end of December to feed on the leaves.

#### WEEPING FIG. *Ficus Benjaminia* L.

##### Family CERAMBYCIDAE.

*Olenecamptus bilobus* Fab.

This beetle was taken in October from the bark of a tree which was dying as a result of having been poisoned.

FIG. *Ficus ehretioides* F.M.

Family SCARABAEIDAE.  
*Lomaptera cinnamomea* Raffr.  
*L. duboulayi* Thoms.  
*L. yorkiana* Jans.  
*Ischiopospha pulchripes* Thoms.

These beetles are taken from the ripe fruit in December and January after the River Cherry (*Eugenia Tierneyana*) has finished blossoming.

FIG. *Ficus infectoria* Roxb.

Family CERAMBYCIDAE.  
*Xylotrechus australis* L. & G.  
*X. reginae* Auriv.  
*Anoita crocogaster* Boisd.  
*Disterna mastersi* Pasc.  
*D. plumifera* Pasc.  
*Pterolophia blackburni* Auriv.  
*Prosopius intercalaris* Pasc.  
*P. woodlarkianus* Montr.  
*Platyomopsis morata* Pasc.  
*Sybra incivilis* Pasc.

Family ANTHRIBIDAE.  
*Phloeobius gigas* Fabr.

The specimens taken from this tree were taken from some branches which had been cut from the tree several weeks previously. They were taken during the period April to June.

FIG. *Ficus magnifolia* F.M.

Family CERAMBYCIDAE.  
*Rosenbergia megaloccephala* Poll.

These beetles feed on the bark of the young branches and finally chew through the branches.

MILKY PINE. (WHITE CHEESE-WOOD). *Alstonia scholaris* R. Br.

Family CERAMBYCIDAE.  
*Batocera boisduvalli* Hope, var. *frenchi* Poll.

The larvae of this beetle have been cut from the trees and bred.

(—). *Jacksonia thesioides* A. Cunn.

Family BUPRESTIDAE.  
*Neospades simplex* Blkb.

Family CERAMBYCIDAE.  
*Purpuricenus quadrinotatus* White.

*Microtragus bifasciatus* Lea.  
*Prosopius oblitus* Pasc.

The Buprestid is taken from the blossom and the Cerambycids from shrubs which had been severely scorched by a bush fire. January and February.

RIVER CHERRY. *Eugenia Tierneyana* F.M.

Family SCARABAEIDAE.  
*Momodoretus flavomaculatus* MacI.  
*Lomaptera cinnamomea* Raffr.  
*L. duboulayi* Thoms.  
*L. yorkiana* Jans.  
*Eupoecilia australis* Don.  
*Polystigma punctata* Don.  
*Glycyphans brunripes* Kby.

Family CURCULIONIDAE.  
*Balaninus mastersi* Pasc.

Family DERMESTIDAE.  
*Antrenocerus signatus* Armst.  
Taken from blossoms in December.

RIVER HIBISCUS. (COAST COTTON-WOOD). *Hibiscus tiliaceus* L.

Family SCARABAEIDAE.  
*Anoplognathus smaragdinus* Ohaus. (Green, blue and red varieties).  
*Calloodes frenchi* Blkb.  
*Lepidoderma albohirtum* Waterh.

Family CURCULIONIDAE.  
*Pautorhytes stanleyanus* White.

All these beetles are foliage eaters and are usually taken in January after several inches of heavy rain have fallen.

RED HIBISCUS. *Hibiscus rhodopetalus* F.M.

Family BUPRESTIDAE.  
*Neospades cruciata* Fab.

These beetles eat the petals of the flowers. Taken February and March.

(—). *Tephrosia astragaloides* R. Br.

Family BUPRESTIDAE.  
*Neospades viridis* Kerr.  
*Cissels cupripennis* Guer.

Family CURCULIONIDAE.  
*Baryopadus calvus* Fabr.  
*Apion terra-reginae* Blkb.

Taken from the blossoms and branches of the shrub. January.

(—). *Evodia Elleryana* F.M.

Family SCARABAEIDAE.  
*Lomaptera cinnamomea* Raffr.  
*L. duboulayi* Thoms.  
*L. yorkiana* Jans.  
*Dilochrosis balteata* Voll.

The Lomaptera are taken from the blossom during January and February but the Dilochrosis do not appear until February and after the heavy rain.

FLANNEL WEED. *Triumfetta Bart-ramia* L.

Family BUPRESTIDAE.  
*Melobasis cyanipennis* Boh.

Taken from the foliage in January and February.

BROAD-LEAVED TEA TREE. *Mela-leuca Cunninghamii* Schau.

Family CERAMBYCIDAE.  
*Platyomopsis obliqua* Don.

Taken from the bark of living small trees, January.

LARGE-LEAVED WATTLE. *Acacia Mangium* Willd.

Family BUPRESTIDAE.  
*Cissels fulgidicollis* MacI.  
*C. regalis* Thoms.

Family CERAMBYCIDAE.  
*Penthea pardalis* Newm.

Taken from the trunks of small trees, January and February.

RED ASH. (RED ALMOND). *Alphitonia excelsa* Reiss.

Family BUPRESTIDAE.  
*Hypocissels latipennis* MacI.

Foliage eaters taken December to February.

GRASS TREE. *Xanthorrhoea minor* R. Br.

Family CERAMBYCIDAE.  
*Platyomopsis variolosus* Pasc.

Family CURCULIONIDAE.  
*Trigonotarsus rugosus* Boisd.

The Cerambycid attacks the flower stem and the Curculionid breeds in the stem of the tree. Taken in January.

(—). *Antigonon leptopus* Hook et Arn.

Family MELOIDAE.  
*Zonitis bizonata* MacI.

Taken from the flowers, April and May.

SPEAR GRASS. *Heteropogon triticeus* Domin.

Family CERAMBYCIDAE.  
*Lychrosis afflicta* Pasc.  
*Hathliodes grammicus* Pasc.  
*H. quadrilineatus* Hope.

Family CHRYSOMELIDAE.  
*Rhyparia didyma* Fabr.  
Taken February and March after the wet season.

CYCAD. *Cycas media* R. Br.

Family CERAMBYCIDAE.  
*Dihammus aestheticus* Oll.

This beetle is of economic importance as it breeds in the trunks of the palms and finally destroys its host.

## BIRDS OF TOWNSVILLE AND DISTRICT

(Continued)

By H. E. TARR, Melbourne.

29. Australian Snipe, *Gallinago hardwicki*, D. Common.
30. Lotus-bird, *Irediparra gallinacea*, C. Very elusive. Noted breeding.
31. Southern Stone-curlew, *Burhinus magnirostris*, C. and E. Common.
32. Australian Bustard, *Eupodotis australis*, B. One bird only noted.
33. Brolga, *Megalornis rubicundus*, B. and C. Observed nesting.
34. Glossy Ibis, *Plegadis falcinellus*, B. Only 2 birds noted 1947.
35. Australian White Ibis, *Threskiornis molucca*, B. and C. Common.
36. Straw-necked Ibis, *Threskiornis spinicollis*, B. and C. Very common.
37. Royal Spoonbill, *Platalea regia*, C. Many large flocks noted.
38. Yellow-billed Spoonbill, *Platalea flavipes*, C. One record only.
39. Jabiru, *Xenorhynchus asiaticus*, C. Occasionally.
40. Little Egret, *Egretta garzetta*, B. and C., Occasionally.

41. Plumed Egret, *Egretta intermedia*, B. and C. The common egret.
42. White Egret, *Egretta alba*, B. and C. Occasionally.
43. White-faced Heron, *Potephoxy novae-hollandiae*, C. Occasionally.
44. Reef Heron, *Demigretta sacra*, E. Grey phase observed breeding.
45. Nankeen Night Heron, *Nycticorax caledonicus*, C. One bird noted in immature plumage.
46. Mangrove Heron, *Butorides striata*, D. Occasionally.
47. Pied Goose, *Anseranas semipalmata*, C. Enormous flocks 1947.
48. Maned Goose, *Chenonetta jubata*, C. Occasionally.
49. Plumed Tree-duck, *Dendrocygna eytoni*, C. Enormous flocks, 1947.
50. Whistling Tree-duck, *Dendrocygna arcuata*, C. X 1944.
51. White Quilled Pygmy-goose, *Nettapus coromandelianus*, C. X. 2 birds 1936.
52. Green Pygmy Goose, *Nettapus pulchellus*, B. and C., X. 1929, 1936, 1944.
53. Black Swan, *Chenopsis atrata*, C. X. 1944.
54. White Headed Shelduck, *Tadorna radjah*, C. Two birds only, 1947.
55. Grey Duck, *Anas superciliosa*, B. and C. Very common.
56. Hardhead, *Nyroca australis*, C. Occasionally.
57. Swamp Harrier, *Circus approximans*, C. Occasionally.
58. Wedge-tailed Eagle, *Uroaetus audax*, A. and E. Occasionally.
59. White Breasted Sea-eagle, *Haliaeetus leucogaster*, D. Occasionally.
60. Red-backed Sea-eagle, *Haliastur indus*, D. and E. Common shore bird. B. nesting.
61. Whistling Eagle, *Haliastur sphenurus*. Common all districts.
62. Black Kite, *Milvus migrans*. Common everywhere.
63. Square-tailed Kite, *Lopholictinia isura*, B. and C. Occasional visitor.
64. Little Falcon, *Falco longipennis*, B. and D. Occasional visitor.
65. Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*, B. One record only.
66. Brown Hawk, *Falco berigora*, C. Occasional record.
67. Nankeen Kestrel, *Falco cenchroides*, A. Two records only.
68. Osprey, *Pandion hallastus*, E. Always in attendance.
69. Rainbow Lorikeet, *Trichoglossus moluccanus*. Common everywhere.
70. Red-tailed Black Cockatoo, *Calyptorhynchus banksi*, C. One record only.
71. White Cockatoo, *Kakatoe galerita*, C. Common in flocks.
72. Cloncurry Parrot, *Barnardius macgillivrayi*, B. Twice recorded.
73. Tawny Frogmouth, *Podargus strigoides*, A. One record.
74. Eastern Broad-billed Roller, *Eurystomus orientalis*, A., B., C. and E. Common.
75. Laughing Kookaburra, *Dacelo gigas*, B. and C. Noted occasionally.
76. Blue Winged Kookaburra, *Dacelo leachi*, A., B., C. and E. The common kookaburra.
77. Forest Kingfisher, *Halcyon macleayi*, A., B. and C. Very common.
78. Sacred Kingfisher, *Halcyon sanctus*, C. and E. Occasional record.
79. Rainbow-bird, *Merops ornatus*, A., B., C. and E. Very common.
80. Horsfield Bronze Cuckoo, *Chalcites basalis*, C. Constantly calling.
81. Golden Bronze Cuckoo, *Lamprococcyx plagusus*, C. Occasional record.
82. Rufous-breasted Bronze Cuckoo, *Lamprococcyx russatus*, C. One definite record.
83. Koel, *Eudynamys orientalis*, A. and C. Common (many more males).
84. Pheasant-coucal, *Centropus phasianinus*, C. Constantly booming.
85. Welcome Swallow, *Hirundo neoxena*, A. and E. Common bird breeding.
86. Australian Tree Martin, *Hylochelidon nigricans*, B. and C. Occasionally.
87. Fairy Martin, *Hylochelidon ariel*, C. Common.
88. Leaden Flycatcher, *Myiagra rubecula*, C. Occasionally.
89. Willie Wagtail, *Rhiphidura leucophrys*, B. and C. Common.
90. Rufous Whistler, *Pachycephala rufiventris*, C. Common.
91. Magpie Lark, *Grallina cyanoleuca*. Common all places.
92. Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina novae-hollandiae*, B. and C. Common.

93. White-breasted Cuckoo-shrike, *Coracina hypoleuca*, A. and C. Observed breeding A.
94. Jardine Caterpillar Eater, *Edollisoma tenuirostre*, C. Quite common.
95. White Winged Triller, *Lalage tricolor*, C. First noticed 6/10/47.
96. Varied Triller, *Lalage leucomela*, C. Quite common.
97. Southern Figbird, *Sphecotheres vieilloti*, A. B. C. and E. Observed breeding A. and E.
98. Red-backed Wren, *Malurus melanocephalus*, A. B. and C. Very common.
99. White-breasted Wood Swallow, *Artamus leucorhynchus*, A., B., C. and D. Very common.
100. Black Faced Wood-swallow, *Artamus melanops*, A., B. and C. Not in large numbers.
101. Little Wood-swallow, *Artamus minor*, C. Occasional pairs.
102. Mistletoe Bird, *Dicaeum hirundinaceum*, A., B., C. and E. Very common.
103. Spotted Pardalote, *Pardalotus punctatus*, C. Twice noted.
104. Black-headed Pardalote, *Pardalotus melanocephalus*, C. Occasional.
105. Yellow Breasted Sunbird, *Cyrtostomus frenatus*, E. only. One new nest observed on eave of house Arcadia Bay.
106. White-throated Honeyeater, *Melithreptus albogularis*, A. Common in the gums.
107. Brown Honeyeater, *Gliciphila indistincta*, C. Common. Breeding here.
108. Rufous Throated Honeyeater, *Conopophyla rufogularis*, C. Common.
109. Yellow Honeyeater, *Meliphaga flava*, A., B. and C. Common.
110. White-gaped Honeyeater, *Stomiopera unicolor*, A. Common.
111. Noisy Miner, *Myzantha melanocephala*, B. and C. Very common.
112. Blue-faced Honeyeater, *Entomyzon cyanotis*. Very common and noisy.
113. Silver-crowned Friar-Bird, *Philemon argenticeps*, C. and E. Two records.
114. Noisy Friar-Bird, *Philemon corniculatus*, A., C. and E. Common.
115. Little Friar-Bird, *Philemon citreogularis*, B. and C. Common and nesting C.
116. Australian Pipit, *Anthus australis*, C. Occasional.
117. Horsfield Bushlark, *Mirafrja javanica*, C. Common in long grass feeding on hoppers.
118. Zebra Finch, *Taeniopygia castanotis*, A., B. and C. Countless numbers; breeding in all districts.

To be Continued

### Townsville and District Naturalists' Club

President: K. Kennedy, Esplanade &amp; Rose St., Kissing Point.

Secretary: J. H. Holliday, P.O. Box 456, Townsville.

The Club meets usually on the first Friday of the month.

#### MEETINGS

January 9th, 1948: Lecturer—Mr. C. Freeman. "Unusual Types of Plants Found in North Queensland."

February 6th: Lecturer—Mr. Perkins. "Meteorology."

March 5th: Lecturer—Mr. S. Hopkins. "Scoutcraft."

#### FIELD EXCURSIONS

January: To Rollingstone.

February: To Cape Pallarenda.

March: To Kissing Point.

### KISSING POINT

The March Field Day of the Townsville and District Naturalists' Club was held at Kissing Point. In past years this locality was a camping place and one of the corroboree grounds of the aborigines, and W. Robertson (Bringa) gives a vivid description of a corroboree which took place in 1884 when the war correspondent, Sir Archibald

Forbes, visited Townsville. In those days the mangroves extended almost to the base of the hill which constitutes the Point, and with the swamps on one side and the sea on the other, a good supply of food was assured to the natives. Now the only evidence of their occupation is an occasional stone artifact found there. Members of the Club met at the Ken-

nedey Museum of Music close by which is built on the site of an aboriginal midden. Here the collection of primitive musical instruments from various parts of the world was inspected and a lecture given on the method of playing them. It was noted that primitive man has to go to nature for materials to construct his instruments of music, and that reeds, bamboo, triton shells, elephant tusk, hollow bone, and other natural objects have been utilised.

The party proceeded to Pandanus Beach and selected a camping spot under a Tamarind—an exotic tree from the East Indies.

The headland is composed of pink and grey granite, covered in most places with a thin coating of soil. At the base of the cliff near Pandanus Beach is a dyke of basalt, averaging 2 feet in thickness, penetrating the granite; in other places quartz veins were noticed.

The origin of the name Kissing Point is not definitely known. Doherty, in his Townsville Book states that it was originally called Red Cliff Point—a much more suitable name. He further mentions that a report (authority un-

stated) dated Dec. 7, 1864, describes the proposed site of Townsville:—"It is situated between two points, the west called Kissing Point, and the east Darling Point, off which lies an island" (Magazine Island). It seems therefore that the name Red Cliff Point ante-dates 1864. It is quite possible that Kissing Point is an anglicised pronunciation of an aboriginal place name for Robertson tells of an aboriginal calling it "Kissum Point." Soon after the white occupation of the district a fort was built on the Point and at the present day an old muzzle loading cannon still lies on the summit.

Plants in flower growing near the beach and on the cliffs were *Ipomoea pes-caprae*, so called because its leaves bear a fanciful resemblance to a goat's hoof; the scented-leaved *Pterocaulon glandulosum*; the blue flowered *Commelina cyanea*; and the pink and white flowered varieties of *Lochnera rosea*; *Portulaca bicolor*; and the straggling blue flowered *Vitex ovata*. The only fern was the drought resisting *Cheilanthes Sieberi*.—K. Kennedy.

### FIELD OBSERVATIONS IN APRIL

For our first outing after the summer recess and to begin the new series for 1948 the valley of the Little Mulgrave was selected and on Sunday, April 18th, a party of 24 members took part in what proved a most delightful and productive excursion.

With a mid-morning rendezvous at the bridge and operations centred about half-a-mile up-stream, small parties combed the immediate surroundings for items of particular interest.

Observers from the creek bank reported a variety of aquatic life. Mention must be made of quite large specimens of the beautifully marked Spangled Grunter (*Therapon unicolor*), which were easily attracted by the splash of a few pebbles on the surface of the water.

These, together with numerous Gar (*Zenrochropterus dispar*), were of sufficient size and activity to make speculation on the inhabitants of overhanging banks and deep shady pools somewhat intriguing.

During the day the nets of our butterfly hunters yielded a haul of such variety that a brief exhibition to the assembled company was possible, with representatives of many species evident from the familiar Wanderer to tiny multi-coloured beauties.

As is usual on these outings, an accurate list of identified birds was kept by several members and yielded no less than 33 distinct species of the feathered tribe actually observed.—R. B. Williams.

## NORTH QUEENSLAND NATURALISTS' CLUB

Meets at School of Arts, Shields Street, Cairns.  
 usually on second Tuesday in each month, at 8 p.m.  
 Next Meeting, Tuesday, 8th June, 1948

### MEETINGS

24th February, 1948: Special Meeting. Address by Mr. L. J. Brass, leader of the Archbold Cape York Expedition of 1948:—"Collecting in South Africa."

9th March: Lecture by Dr. Geo. Tate, Curator of Mammals, American Museum of Natural History:—"The Natural Features of Australia and South America Compared."

13th April: Lecture by Mr. S. E. Stephens, President, N.Q. Naturalists' Club:—"Aboriginal Art Galleries."

11th May: Members' Night. General discussion on exhibits.

### NEW MEMBERS ELECTED

9th March: Mr. P. A. Tulk, 153 Esplanade, Cairns; Mrs. P. A. Tulk, do; C. Le Roy, Big Tableland, Cooktown; R. B. Beaman, Stratford (Junior).

13th April: W. J. Jordan, Miles St., West Cairns; W. Courtney, Miles St., West Cairns; R. A. Hunt, Texas, S.Q.

11th May: J. W. Turnbull, 432 Severin St., Cairns; G. McLoughlin, Abbott St., Cairns (Junior).