

REPORT OF A COLLECTING TRIP TO NORTH-EASTERN QUEENSLAND DURING APRIL TO SEPTEMBER, 1889.

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(*Abridged from their Report to the Curator.*)

DR. RAMSAY'S instructions to us on leaving Sydney were to make our way if possible to the higher peaks of the Bellenden-Ker range and Mt. Bartle-Frere on the eastern fall, and to endeavour to obtain specimens of all Mammals, especially *Dendrolagus*, and to collect Birds, Insects, &c.

We left Sydney on the 12th April, and arrived at Cairns on the 20th inst. The rain was exceptionally late this season, for instead of commencing as usual in December, it had only really set in a fortnight or so before our arrival, so that to have gone into the ranges would have been useless. We therefore collected in the neighbourhood of Cairns for some weeks when the weather would permit, and made a camp about sixteen miles north of Cairns (Double Island) for a fortnight, hoping to get a new Lyre-Bird that was reported to have been shot there. We obtained a fair number of Birds and Insects, several amongst the latter we understand will prove new. The *P. archeri* however was the only Mammal shot or seen.

On the 30th June we returned to Cairns, where we shipped all our gear and started for Boar Pocket on the Cairns-Herberton Road. We fixed on this place for a camp, as provisions are obtainable near, and the rivers Russell, Mulgrave, Johnson, and Barron head at no great distance. It is a patch of forest country about a square mile in extent surrounded by a dense vine scrub.

On making enquiries we found that the natives had been brought in by the police at Atherton, a township on the other side of the Barwon River, ten miles from our camp, and they were also in on the Russell River diggings. We obtained the assistance of two or three with their gins, and had them attached to the camp until the murders on the Russell were committed. They proved exceedingly useful, and without their help we could not have collected so large a number and variety of animals. We never saw *Pseudochirus lemuroides* and *P. herbertensis* until they hunted them out, these species being apparently strictly nocturnal.

We found *Pseudochirus lemuroides* (native name "Yappi") in holes high up, usually on good sized trees. They are exceedingly active when disturbed, running and jumping along the tree tops, at times taking prodigious leaps from tree to tree. In this they resemble a flying squirrel but do not make such an easy slope,

and falling down much more quickly. They appear to flatten themselves out, and when skinning them we found a small flap or fold of skin from the thigh to the ribs, and the same behind the forelegs, but not so noticeable. This fold or parachute does not extend along the body, but no doubt it is of assistance in their movements from tree to tree. The eyes of this species protrude in a very remarkable manner, and both sexes have a strong disagreeable odor, which, even in a young one that we attempted to rear, was very pronounced; it appears to proceed from the sexual organs.

The habitat of *P. herbertensis* (native name "Oōta") is similar to that of *P. lemuroides*, but it is hardly so numerous. The white markings on this species vary very much, two specimens being obtained with one foreleg completely white. The two species were occasionally found sleeping in the stag-horn ferns, but generally in holes in trees.

P. archeri (native name "Tula"). These animals are occasionally seen moving about in the daytime, or seated in a branch or fork. They differ from the rest of the *Pseudochirus* in having the pupil of the eye elongated like that of a cat.

Trichosurus johnstonii (native name "Bong-ā") is also found in the scrubs on the tableland, frequently amongst the masses of staghorn ferns growing high up, but they have the peculiarity of coming out at night into the forest to feed on the gum leaves, and we obtained our specimens by moonlight on the tall gums at the edge of the scrub, but never any distance away. None of the other varieties were seen on these occasions.

All the mammals collected, with the exception of the Tree Kangaroos, were obtained on the tableland at Boar Pocket, with the aid of the natives, they simply walk up saplings with hands and feet, but for the larger trees they use a cane, known as the "lawyer's" (a species of *Calamus*) about ten or twelve feet in length; they tie a knot on one end and swing it round the tree, get a grip with the other hand, then leaning well back walk up, lifting the cane about two feet every step. Unfortunately they are not to be trusted, and after the Russell River murders we got very little help from them.

Dendrolagus lumholtzi (native name "Map-pi"). The specimens brought down were obtained on a special trip, by Mr. Cairn in August, to the Dividing Range about eight miles eastward of Herberton. Through the kindness of Inspector Stewart, Mr. Hanson and the native police accompanied him. It rained the whole time they were out, or they would possibly have obtained something new in the way of Birds. Mr. Cairn saw the bower of *P. newtoniana* but none of the birds. The party, however, was fortunate in getting fine perfect specimens of *D. lumholtzi*, and had an opportunity of seeing the aboriginal style of hunting

them. Their method is on finding one in a tree, to build a sort of brush yard round it a few feet from the roots ; one of the natives then climbs up until he is above the animal, which he compels by pelting it with sticks to descend to the ground, where being unable to jump any height it is easily killed with waddies. The natives say they will bite, but we are inclined to think the fence is rather to prevent their getting away, or as a protection against their fore paws, of which the claws are very strong and sharp. The habits and movements of this animal appear to be like those of the native bear ; so far as we saw they did not show any great activity amongst the branches, and they come down a tree backwards making no use of their very long tail. Their tracks were generally seen on leaning trees, but one animal was shot from a tree that was practically perpendicular. We had no means of ascertaining the altitude of the ranges where the specimens were obtained, but should say not less than 4,000 feet, and they appear to frequent very rough country.

There was nothing in the paunch of any of the specimens but leaves.

D. lumholtzi and the various *Pseudochirus* were in splendid condition up to August, after which the fur on the latter began to get ragged and worn.

On the 25th August Mr. Cairn left the camp for the Upper Russell River diggings, situated 28 miles S.E. of Boar Pocket, and being joined there by Mr. Hanson with his native troopers and four "myalls,"* started all heavily packed for a trip to the top of Mount Bartle-Frere. The country is exceedingly rough, and being all scrub a track had to be cut, but they made a camp within a few hundred feet of the top of the mountains on the 28th, but not without difficulty as two of the natives gave in. They were again unfortunate in the weather, being enveloped in mist nearly all the time. They obtained seven of the new Bower Bird *Prionodura newtoniana*, and saw several of their bowers. The sides of the bowers are built round two saplings chosen about two feet apart, and are constructed of small twigs laid horizontally and loosely built together ; the walls are raised to a height of from three to seven feet, and are semi-oval in shape. In two of the bowers at a height of about nine inches from the ground, was a sort of hedge from wall to wall. The flat inner sides of the walls of the bower were decorated in each instance with white orchid blossoms. In two cases one of the walls was raised considerably higher than the other. Accompanying is a rough sketch of one of the bowers, which will give a fair idea of the construction.

The rainfall is very heavy on Mts. Bartle-Frere and Bellenden-Ker.

* Wild aborigines.

Dendrolagus is said by the natives to be on the ranges, and no doubt occurs there, but none were obtained by us.

The ground birds started nesting in August, and we obtained nests and eggs of *Heteromyias cinereifrons* and *Orthonyx spaldingi*. The former lays two eggs and builds a nest on the "lawyer" vines about four feet from the ground. *Orthonyx spaldingi* lays but one egg for a sitting, and usually builds at the root of a tree or vine, but we found some nests as high from the ground as twelve feet on staghorn ferns.

The majority of birds on the tableland and ranges do not nest until towards the end of the year.

We obtained a mummy and some native implements, &c., from camps at the heads of the Johnson and Mulgrave Rivers. The dilly bags and water buckets are made by the old men.

LIST OF SPECIMENS COLLECTED.

MAMMALS [Skins] 98 Specimens :—

<i>Pseudochirus lemuroides</i>	<i>Trichosurus johnstoni</i>
"Yappi"	"Bonga"
<i>herbertensis</i>	<i>Halmaturus stigmaticus</i>
"Oöta"	<i>nalabatus</i>
<i>archeri</i> "Tula"	var. <i>apicalis</i>
<i>Petaurus cinereus</i>	<i>Dendrolagus lumholtzi</i>

BIRDS, 233 Specimens, 64 Species :—

<i>Astur cinereus</i>	<i>Collyriocincla boweri</i>
<i>Podargus papuensis</i>	<i>Chibia bracteata</i>
<i>phalaenoides</i>	<i>Ophryzone kaupi</i>
<i>Caprimulgus macrourus</i>	<i>Machæirrhynchus flaviventer</i>
<i>Dacelo gigas</i>	<i>Piezorhynchus gouldi</i>
<i>leachi</i>	" <i>nitidus</i>
<i>Halcyon macleayi</i>	<i>Gerygone culicivora</i>
<i>Alcyon pulchra</i>	<i>Pæcilodryas</i> , sp.
<i>pusilla</i>	<i>Heteromyias cinereifrons</i>
<i>Pardalotus melanocephalus</i>	<i>Eopsaltria chrysorrhous</i>
" <i>punctatus</i>	" <i>nana</i>
<i>Strepera graculina</i>	<i>Psophodes crepitans</i>
<i>Cracticus quoyi</i>	<i>Malurus cruentatus</i>
" <i>rufescens</i>	<i>Sericornis gutturalis</i>
<i>Graucalus lineatus</i>	" <i>citreogularis</i>
<i>Lalage leucomelæna</i>	<i>Acanthiza</i> sp. (?)
" <i>tricolor</i>	<i>Pitta strepitans</i>
<i>Pachycephala gutturalis</i>	<i>Geocichla lunulata</i> , var.
" <i>rufiventris</i>	<i>Scenoæpus dentirostris</i>

BIRDS, Continued :—

<i>Ailurædus maculosus</i>	<i>Sittella striata</i>
<i>Ptilorhis victorie</i>	<i>Chrysococcyx minutilla</i>
<i>Prionodura newtoniana</i>	<i>Centropus phasianus</i>
<i>Mimeta affinis</i>	<i>Aprosmictus scapulatus</i>
<i>Sphecotheres maxillaris</i>	<i>Platycercus</i> var. <i>nigrescens</i>
<i>Ptilotis chrysops</i>	<i>Cyclopsitta macleayana</i>
„ <i>notata</i>	<i>Ptilinopus swainsoni</i>
„ <i>macleayana</i>	<i>Chalcophaps chrysochlora</i>
<i>Ptilotis frenata</i>	<i>Macropygia phasianella</i>
<i>Acanthorhynchus tenuirostris</i>	<i>Geopelia placida</i>
<i>Myzomela obscura</i>	<i>Synoicus australis</i>
<i>Climacteris leucophæa</i> , var.	<i>Casuarius australis</i> (juv.)
<i>Orthonyx spaldingi</i>	<i>Nycticorax caledonicus</i>

INSECTA :—

- 160 Specimens of Lepidoptera, including *Mynes geoffroyi*, *Atella propinqua*, *Hypochrysops epioletus*, *Agavista*, *Hypsa*, *Ophideres*, &c.
 35 Specimens Coleoptera, &c.

ETHNOLOGY :—

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| 1 Mummy Child | 5 Dilly Bags |
| 6 Water Buckets | Net |
| 3 Bundles Needles | Ochre, &c. |
| 1 Shield | |

SPIRIT SPECIMENS.

MAMMALS, 39, including the following :—

<i>Perameles</i> , sp.	<i>Pseudochirus archeri</i> , juv.
<i>Perameles</i> , sp., from pouch	<i>Antechinus</i> , sp.
<i>Dactylopsila trivirgata</i>	<i>Mus</i> , sp.
<i>Dactylopsila</i> , from pouch	„ <i>caudimaculata</i>
<i>Pseudochirus herbertensis</i> , juv.	<i>Pseudochirus</i> , &c., Skeletons

REPTILES, 26 Specimens :—

<i>Gymnodactylus platurus</i>	<i>Physignathus lesueuri</i>
Northern form	<i>Varanus acanthurus</i>
<i>Gehyra variegata</i>	<i>Lygosoma quoyi</i>
<i>Gonyodactylus boydi</i>	„ <i>rhomboidale</i>

BATRACHIA, 7 Specimens :—

<i>Myxophies fasciolatus</i>	and	<i>Hyla</i> , sp.
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