

Extract from Dr. Jackson's letter to Prof. Poulton (14/4/33): "They belong to the genus *Arachnura*, and consist of three females and six males, all adult. The genus has a Lemurian distribution, and rather more: Réunion, East Africa, Ceylon, Malaysia, Australia and New Zealand—the last rather extraordinary. Vinson said that the tail was movable and could be flexed dorsally (like a scorpion), but Simon did not observe this in Ceylon. Vinson called his species *A. scorpionides*. Family is *Argiopidae*. The tails in the males seem to be retractile and some of the specimens show different stages of this. In some it is exerted, or partly so, and in others retracted."

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EXCURSION TO SPRINGVALE

The Springvale excursion was held on October 30. The first place visited at the Heatherton Road carried a dense growth of the shrubby Tea-trees, (*Leptospermum scoparium* and *L. myrsinoides*), in full flower, with occasional pink-flowered bushes of the latter species. In the lower ground we examined two species of Hakea, the Furze Hakea (*H. ulicina*), with sharp leaves and rather small fruits, and the Yellow Hakea (*H. nodosa*), in which the fruits are not always as knotty as the name suggests. At the roadside was a good patch of the spreading Flax Lily (*Dianella revoluta*), and the Slender Stackhousia (*S. viminalis*).

We then visited an area on the opposite corner which had been partially cleared and some soil removed, but the native vegetation was re-establishing itself. *Aotus* and the common Guinea Flower (*Hibbertia fasciculata*), were abundant, but their best flowering was past. This Guinea Flower is frequently quick to reappear, as are also the *Trachymene* and the Broom spurge (*Amperea spartioides*), seen at other places near. A considerable area was occupied by a Sword Sedge, and in the lower ground were a belt of scattered bushes of Scented Paper-bark (*Melaleuca squarrosa*), and a widespread carpet of *Selaginella*. There were large patches of the creeping Raspwort (*Halorrhagis micrantha*), and many neat little tussocks of the Slender Bogrush (*Schoenus tenuissimus*, formerly called *Lepidospora*), having the fruit of a *Lepidosperma*, but the flower like *Schoenus*.

The most attractive item here was a fine patch of *Patersonias*, both the long-stalked Purple Flag (*Patersonia longiscapa*) and the short-stalked (*P. glauca*). Close by were the deeper blue flowers of the Tufted Lily (*Stypandra caespitosa*).

We visited a grassland area beyond the old racecourse sidings; several plants were noticed, including a clump of the smooth Flax Lily (*Dianella laevis*).

T. S. HART



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