

## TECHNICAL NOTES.

## BANDICOOT FOOD.

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In October 1950, a specimen of *Isoodon macrourus torosus* (Ramsay) was found dead on a road in Taringa, Brisbane. This was brought to the Q.I.M.R. Laboratory and subsequently examined for parasites. While examining the gut, it was noted that much of the contents was still in an identifiable condition. It consisted mainly of various insects: the muscular foot region of slugs (these were striped), and a long narrow tail (in 2 pieces) of a small lizard (? *Liolepisma*) were also recovered.

The insects identified by the Entomology Department of the University were:—

*Larvae*: tenebrionid; scarabiid; lepidopteran (2 types); coleopteran (2 types); one specimen not identified.

*Adult Coleoptera*: These were all Harpalinae. By comparison with specimens in the Queensland Museum they appeared to be:—*Gnathophanus adalaidae* Cast., *Gnathophanus melanarius* Dej., and one specimen which most closely resembled *Hypharpax latiusculus* Chaud.

Popular public opinion seems to be that bandicoots burrow for roots of plants as food.

Most references to the feeding of bandicoots usually describe their diet as omnivorous. Wood-Jones in "The Mammals of South Australia" says of the bandicoot:—"They possess an untiring energy in searching out and destroying insects." The present case substantiates this. The statement by Troughton in "Furred Animals of Australia" that their diet is a truly mixed one, of insects, vegetable matter, small mammals and probably lizards" is upheld not only by the identification of the contents of the gut of the animal examined, but also by the fact that the bandicoots being kept alive at the Q.I.M.R. as laboratory animals, are fed daily on fresh meat (cut into small pieces) placed on bread. Both are eaten.

The stomach contents of another bandicoot (*Isoodon macrourus torosus*) collected from Indooroopilly, Brisbane on March 9th, 1951, were mainly parts of the fruit of *Passiflora foetida*, the Wild Passion Fruit.



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