

**THE VICTORIAN NATURALIST: THE  
JOURNAL AND MAGAZINE OF  
THE FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB  
OF VICTIRIA. VOL. IX. MAY 1892,  
APRIL 1893**

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**VARIOUS**

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**VOL. IX.**

MAY, 1892, TO APRIL, 1893.

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The Author of each Article is responsible for the facts and  
opinions he records.

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No. 101.

FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB OF VICTORIA.

THE ordinary monthly meeting was held in the Royal Society's Hall on Monday evening, 14th March. Professor W. Baldwin Spencer, president of the Club, was in the chair, and there was an attendance of some 80 members and friends.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT.

The hon. librarian reported the receipt of the following donations to the library:—"The Geelong Naturalist," quarterly, Nos. 1, 2, and 3, from Gordon College Field Naturalists' Association; "Technics," journal of Stawell Technical College, 1st February, 1892, from Stawell School of Mines; "Records Australian Museum," vol. i., No. 11 (Index), from Museum; "Catalogue Marine Shells of Australia and Tasmania," part i., from Museum; "Journal New York Microscopical Society," vol. viii., part 1, from Society.

ELECTION OF MEMBER.

On a ballot being taken, Mr. H. Quiney was elected a member of the Club.

PAPER.

The only paper of the evening was communicated by Professor W. Baldwin Spencer, on "A Trip to Queensland in Search of *Ceratodus*." Special interest attaches to this form, since it is the Australian representative of a small group of animals (the Dipnoi) which is intermediate between the fishes and the amphibia. *Ceratodus* has its home in the Mary and Burnett Rivers in Queensland, whilst its ally, *Lepidosiren*, is found in the Amazon, and another relative, *Protopterus*, flourishes in the waters of tropical Africa. Although unsuccessful in obtaining the eggs of *Ceratodus*, owing to the early season, Professor Spencer was able, from a careful study of the surroundings under which the animal lives, to demonstrate very forcibly that its lung is, doubtless, of as great a service to it during the wet as during the dry season—a theory in direct opposition to the generally accepted one that it functions principally during the dry season, when the animal is inhabiting a mud-cocoon within the dry bed of the river. Many interesting specimens, including *Ceratodus*, earthworms, land planarians, *Peripatus*, &c., were secured, and

shown in illustration of the paper; and the limelight views, prepared from photographs taken on the trip by Professor Spencer, and exhibited by Mr. J. Scarle with his usual skill, were a fitting accompaniment to a highly interesting paper.

#### NATURAL HISTORY NOTE.

Mr D. Le Souëf read a note communicated by Mr. H. Barnard on "A Visit to the South Barnard Island, Northern Queensland." Interesting details were given as to the beche-de-mer fishery conducted there, and full description of a Tern rookery.

#### EXHIBITION OF SPECIMENS.

The meeting terminated with the usual exhibition of specimens, of which the following is a list:—By Mr. E. Anderson.—Specimen of *Thalassia selene*, bred from a larva taken at Gisborne by Mr. G. Lyell, jun.; 2 specimens of *Monocentia rimaria*, bred from larvæ distributed by the Rev. Mr. Hennell at the January meeting; water-colour drawings of *Monocentia rimaria* and *Ialmennus exagorus*. By A. Coles.—Lace Lizard from Dimboola; Australian Goshawk; Death Adder, captured at Mondual, N.S.W., after having bitten Mr. J. M. Simson, of Toorak, who was successfully treated with strychnine and ammonia. By Miss Cochrane.—Paintings of orchids and other Victorian wild flowers. By Mr. C. French.—Eleven new species of Australian Longicorn beetles, including one new genus and three new species found in the Berwick and Lilydale districts, Victoria. Names as under:—*Maulia* (new genus) *pictipennis*, Blackburn, new species, Berwick, Victoria—C. French; *Behius* (genus new for Victoria) *variegatus*, Blackburn, new species, Lilydale, Victoria—C. French; *Ectosticta ornata*, Blackburn, new species, Lilydale, Victoria—C. French; *Penthes conferta*, Blackburn, new species, interior of Queensland; *Lygesis ornata*, Blackburn, new species, Queensland; *Monohammus frenchii*, Blackburn, new species, Queensland; *Sisyrium levigatum*, Blackburn, new species, Western Australia; *Opsidota guttata*, Blackburn, new species, Western Australia; *Microtragus frenchii*, Blackburn, new species, Western Australia; *Neostenus nigra*, Blackburn, new species, Western Australia; *Coptocercus tatei*, Blackburn, new species, Western Australia; also Lepidoptera from New Guinea. Exhibited by C. French, jun.—Eggs of Glossy Ibis; eggs of Western Brown Hawk. By Mr. G. Hill.—Victorian Coleoptera. By Master Gerald Hill.—Victorian Hymenoptera. Exhibited by Baron von Mueller.—The following plants, collected by Stephen Johnson:—*Wrightia buccelliana*, from Russell River, Queensland—new to science; *Phyllanthus hypospodius*, from Mount Bartle Frere, Queensland—new to science; *Eugenia johnsonii*, Mount Bartle Frere, Queensland—new to science; *Wendlandia basist*

*aminea*, from Russell River, Queensland; *Cassinia levis*, new for Victoria, collected by A. J. Campbell, near Bacchus Marsh; *Cassytha paniculata*, new for Victoria, collected by S. Jephcott, Hume River; *Eugenia holraaiophylla*, F. v. M., Mossman's River, Queensland—new to science. By Mr. D. Le Souëf.—Eggs of the Comb-crested Parra or Lotus Bird. By Mr. F. Spry.—Larva of *Agarista casuarinae* (18 days old).

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Club was held at the Royal Society's Hall on Monday evening, 11th April. Professor W. Baldwin Spencer (president) was in the chair, and there was a full attendance of members and friends.

#### REPORTS OF EXCURSIONS.

The first report was read by Professor Spencer, who, together with Mr. C. French, F.L.S., headed an excursion to Fern Tree Gully on 26th March. The party was unable to get through much real work, owing to the heavy showers of rain which fell at intervals during the day, but those who remained in the district for the following day were more fortunate. Professor Spencer recorded seven species of earthworms, two of which were new, together with the same number of land planarians and a few specimens of *Geonemertes*; Mr. French reported a fair collection of beetles, flies, cicadas, and ichneumons; Mr. H. T. Tisdall furnished a long list of botanical specimens, including a large number of fungi. Amongst the former was a rare orchid (*C. leptochila*), recorded for the first time for Victoria. Mr. C. Frost named several birds and five lizards, one of the latter (*Liolepisina aneum*) being noted for the first time in Australia, though found previously in New Zealand; whilst Mr. T. Steel noted the curious land shell, *Helix atramentaria*.

A report of the Club's excursion to Merri Creek, under the leadership of Mr. G. Sweet, followed. The geologists met with a fine section showing the basalt resting directly on the silurian rock; but by far the most interesting objects were the fine sections of columnar basalt. Only a few of these columns have been left standing their full height, the superiority of the stone for building purposes making it an object of special interest to the quarryman. In a special note Mr. Sweet advocated the employment by the Government of some of the unemployed to clear away the *débris* which at present somewhat obscures this remarkable and uncommon formation.

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

A ballot for new members resulted in the election of Mr. Eyre Williams, B.A., Mr. J. B. Backhouse, M.B., and Mr. H. Grayson.