A New Species of Saccolabium
S. loaderanum, sp. nov.

By the Rev. H. M. R. RUPP, Willoughby, N.S.W.

Saccolabium loaderanum sp. nov.
(Key to plate)
(1) Portion of a plant, natural size.
(2) A flower, x3.
(3) Section of a spur, x4.
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Epiphytica, dependens, usque ad 18 cm. longa, folia alterna, 6-8 cm. longa, cucumata, prope marginem spatulata, lata, obtusa, laciniae nonnullae, 6-9 cm. longi. Flores 5-9, in pedicellis 1 cm. longis, Sepalum dorsale et petala aequalia, illud eucallitum, obtusum, 5 mm. longum; sepala lateralia angustiora, ferre 6 mm., longa, ad collumae pedem fixa; petala lateralia. Perianth-thi segmenta omnia concava, pallida cum maculis magnis rutilis, Labium album calcareo exsecto longissimo, obtuso; intus appendice curvo infra foramen. Lumen appendixe ovale, sub oblongo, aliquae cum pede moderate longo.

A pendant epiphyte up to 18 cm. long. Leaves alternate, about 1 cm. apart, 6-8 cm. long, 2 cm. wide near the middle, cucumate, obtuse. Racemes several, 6-9 cm. long. Flowers 5-9, on pedicels full 1 cm. long. Dorsal sepal and petals equal, the former cuculate, obtuse, 4 mm. long; lateral petals, nearly 6 mm. long, adnate to the column-foot; petals somewhat broader. Anther the same concave, pale green, each with a large dark brown blotch about the middle. Labelium white with a very long greenish deflexed spur (up to 8 mm. long); this spur obtuse, furnished inside with a curved appendage, notched at the orifice; tip of the appendage hirsute. Column short and broad with a moderately long foot.

Bamburoo, 60 miles N. of Townsville, Queensland; Arnold Johnson, July 1904 (not flowering; in greenhouse of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Loader at Casino, Sydney, N.S.W., December 1901.

This attractive little epiphyte is closer to S. brevilabre (Muel ler) than any other species, but there is no doubt of its distinctive character, as may be seen by comparing the description with that given by Muel ler for his Conostoma brevilabre in Fragn. xi, 87 (Balley, Q. Fila. p. 1566). The species is named in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Loader, who have successfully grown the plant, and who have done much towards the conservation of our native flora. I wish to acknowledge the assistance of Mr. H. K. C. Mair, of the National Herbarium, Sydney, in describing the new species.

A Legend of Durren Dae (Dream Time)

By DOUGLAS SEATON, Cairns

As told to the recorder by Maudi, (Native name Joob-bee), of the Goo-Tina totem (Echionis). Tchuppi People.

A man named Goy-yalla lived alone on the earth and one day he nothing of his leg (Basi-ah). He cut open the swelling and to his surprise found a baby boy (Wan- dee bandall bandi-be-boi). He placed the bandil in his hut (Joo-gool) and went searching for food (mile). On his return he was surprised to see that the bandil had been fed and was growing rapidly. It appeared that during his absence a woman named Wungal-Longul used to come and dwell in the sky (Oin-kul) and feed the bandiil. When the bandiil had become a young man (Man-dae), he went up to the sky with Wungal-Longul and there they married. They returned to the earth and then created all animals, birds and fish in order that there would be food for future people. One day a brother of Goy-yalla came down to earth with him. This brother was named Da-muree, his name was a Gar-jar (devil). He was constantly trying to cut open Goy-yalla’s body in order to eat Goy-yall’a brain. The day Goy-yalla (made to a fire but his fire stick (Jongum-mice) was no good, so he asked Da-muree to make a fire. Da-muree said it was too much trouble, but he would bring fire from another direction. He waved his hand and caused a violent upheaval of fire and stone which became the city Dwelling Place of all. The fire burned, and was in past days a corroboree ground of the aboriginals. Relics of their occupation are in the form of flaked and broken artifacts and broken shells. Many feasts have been found on and around it. When the whites came, a fort was built on the summit, and muzzle loading cannon— a couple of which still remain lying on the ground—were pointed out toward the summit. The fort is still under military control, and is therefore a reserve.

A Day With the Townsville and District Naturalists’ Club

By KENNETH KENNEDY

A slight haze hung over Roe’s Bay when members of the Townsville and District Naturalists’ Club commenced to gather singly and in two or three elsewhere the coconut palms at the Museum. Kissing Point is this being the rendezvous for our flier’s. Som on the haze cleared, revealing distant ships. The most pleasant day with turquois blue sky became typical of a North Queens land early morning history. Further on, a grove of the (GILLED) pandanus (Pandanus pedurunla), was met with, imparting a Pacific Island atmosphere, and nearby the exotic tamarind grew (Tamarindus indica). These plants are possibly planted by the crew of some trepang lugger for the tamarind is of Asiatic origin.

On the slopes of the cliff the white flowers of the wild passion fruit, a climber from Mexico

ONE DAY WHEN HE WAS THIRSTY

dragged himself up the valley (Warra-ba) and at the foot of the mountains died; in his death he changed into the outcrop of rock on the mountain top, now known as Glacier Rock.
(Passiflora foetida), looked pretty, but are not appreciated, for although the fruit is edible the leaves, on certain occasions, have a high content of prussic acid, and have caused numerous losses of stock. Sometimes we would tread on a herbaceous plant which when crushed gives out an aromatic perfume, an introduced labiate noxious weed, Hyptis suaveolens, which when dried can be used like lavender, another labiate to scent drawers and boxes. Another aromatic herb, a native composite, Ferrocactus glandulosum, was also found, and pieces of the very viscous leaves were crushed for the sake of the perfume.

Some of the party searched for a time in the locality, while others, after a scramble over rocks and boulders, rounded the Point and hiked back the landward side to Rowe's Bay, named after L. S. Rowe, one of the pioneers of Townsville, which is almost a miniature island sea. On its southern side is Kissing Point; to the north is Cape Pallarenda, while atwart it lies Magnetic Island with its highest portion, Mount Cook, curving to 628 feet. In the gap between Cape Pallarenda and the north-western extremity of Magnetic Island can be seen a little island called Bay Rock, whilst away out on the horizon loom the distant Palm Islands. When the tide is in, the calm surface of the bay has a lake-like effect, but the water is not deep, and at low tide an expanse of rocks, mud flats and sand banks come into view, which our students of marine life found to be an ideal hunting ground. Specimens of the cowrie, Mystapondia vitellus, were obtained. This shell when thrown up on the beach and exposed to the sun becomes purplish in colour and when still more weathered a slaty grey. A beautiful staircase shell, Architectonica perspectiva, was picked up, also an iridescent oyster, Pinctada epitea, with both valves intact. A novelty was found in the form of a watering pot shell, Aspergillum, a bivalve, tubular in shape with one end of the tube closed but perforated like the rose of a watering pot. Some cone shells were picked up, Conus scuiformis, and an ear-shell, Rhodostoma angulifera, with an opening shaped like a human ear caused much interest. Jutting out into the bay is a fish-maze made of stakes driven into the sand, and connected with

Those geologically inclined examined some large weather-worn boulders.

Rowe's Bay is almost a miniature inland sea...

Pandanus trees... imparting a Pacific Island atmosphere.

Our students of marine life found an ideal hunting ground.
wire netting. When the tide is high, the fish wander in, and when the water is low, they find themselves in a cul-de-sac from which they are gathered by the fisherman.

After looking over the maze, a return was made above high water mark to examine the littoral plants along the fore-shore. The plant society consists largely of native pigmy flags, Goat's Foot Cenchrus, Ipomoea pes-caprae, so-called because of its leaves, like those of the Bauhinia, are in outline shaped as a goat's hoof, sand binding grasses including

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... The bird observers heard the singing of the Mangrove Warbler.

a silvery Spinifex hirsutus, which unlike the island Paspalum Grass, Triodia, is a true Spinifex, and the prostrate mauve colored flowering Vitis ovata, the Lochnera rasa and its variety alba, which on insufficient grounds has been used in the treatment of diabetes, and further back a line of beach

echorelides and a large Red Backed Sea Eagle. Halastur indicus.

As evening drew on, the various groups into which the club had separated re-united under the coconut palms, and after relating experiences and exchanging information, the outing formally came to an end.

Round The Mangrove Creek

By Jean Devanny

The tidal creek, lined for the most part with the lovely white mangrove, Avicennia marina var. magna upon this rainforest side of my garden, about fifty yards below the fence. Just here, there is a creek on my side in the mangroves permitting wide lawns of

cucker weed with a small albeit pretty pink flower. Sesuvium portulacastum, to slope gently down to the water's edge. And on this sward, at time of a making tide, and especially in the early morning, there gather llys by the dozen—some of them black—

the strawnecked this, Threskiornis spinicollis, but most with white body, black head and tail, the white egret, Egretta alba, and white and blue reef heron, Demidetta saera. Pick, pick, pick, the stilted little legs of their bills as they flock for titbits in the succulent saltplan weed. At times a white heron, the White Egret, Egretta alba, glides by but he never stays long. And with the sun, up come dozens of fork-tailed kites, Milvus migrans, to circle ceaselessly, day-long above the creek and in its vicinity. They never seem to tire, and with a pair of red-backed white breasted sea-eagles, Halastur indus, seem to nest here, while they, too, join in the winged joy-riding above the creek. Before the drought broke, many black ducks, Anas superciliosa, also came in; not so much, it appeared to feed, for they were always on the move. As the high spring tide crept up and covered the succulent carpet they came up too, on its calm lacy surface, till they were sailing along close beside my fence.

Lately, a young pheasant coucou, Centropus sinicus, has taken to lodging of a morning on a small tamarind tree outside my fence. His youth I deduce from the fact that the feathers round his head are fluffy and fawn and his tail short. An amusing place the chanting and bottle-pouring, the calls of the adult birds, his sole utterance is a loud complaining wheeze. This morning I tried to creep up to him. He waited, with proud inquiring looks, till I was within a few yards and then flitted up into the refuge of a large mango in my garden.

The black-faced buzzard, blue jay, Coracina novaehollandiae also likes that tamarind, visiting it at times a week, but flies up to seven, almost every day. But I don't know which kind of the day I like better, for the birdlife round the creek. For at evenings, the rainbow bird, Corysorhina, come in by the hundreds to roost in the mangroves. The air is filled with the mellow tunes of their sweet rattling cries. They begin to arrive as the trees are bathed with the mild gleam of sunset, flock after flock. Straight out of the west they wing into the trees, but they do not stay there. For a time they flutter and gambol through the topmost boughs, then take off again and engage in circus tricks above the forest. Up, up they fly, with prodigious wing-movement, then fold their pinions and drop like a plummet. Or they glide, turning and twisting to delight the beholder with the play of sunlight upon their glorious plummage. The needles of their tails are clearly seen, back against the golden sky. They keep up this play till near dusk, then settle in the trees, but their song continues until the last gleam of light has faded. After them come the blackbirds. Fingrps of pulsing light among the trees, they dart and streak across the intervening lawns.

Townsville and District Naturalists' Club

President, Mr. Keith Kennedy, Museum of Music, Esplanade, Kissing Point, Townsville. Hon. Sec., Mr. Keith Kennedy, Box 170, Townsville.

Meetings are held on the first Friday in each month in the Lecture Room of the Adult Education Centre, Wickham St., Townsville.

Meeting:  Sept. 7th, 1951. Mr. Black's Hugghien Report was read and discussed. Mr. Brock brought in a most interesting collection of shells and beetles and talked on all interest-

Townsville and District Naturalists' Club

Mr. J. J. Selvage read a paper from the Clarence Valley Field Naturalists' Club on birds. Mr. Kennedy read a paper and exhibited an outline stone from the Upper Murray River District.

Meeting:  October 9th, 1951. Lecture given by Mr. J. Sel-

vage on Bird Migration beginning with the earliest mention on the continent and other lands. He mentioned the various birds which fly thousands of miles from one country to another to nest so that they could get more daylight in which to feed their hungry families. He
spoke of the time and height at which the various birds migrate. After an interesting discussion the speaker was given a hearty vote of thanks.

The Field Day was to the Black School Weir where a very enjoyable outing was had by all.

Meeting:- 2nd November, 1951. Mr. K. Kennedy spoke on Indians of the Painted Desert, which is in Arizona, and gets its name because of the varied colourings in the rocks and earth. Here the Indians still keep up their old customs and live their ancient way of life. Lantern slides made by the lecturer during his travels through this fascinating region were screened depicting Indian craftsmen, ceremonial dances and everyday life. To conclude the talk he played several tunes on the Indian flute, including a payote ceremony song and an eagle dance. Afterwards some magazine pictures sent to Mr. Selvage were shown, and Mr. Brock described a field day held by the club on Magnetic Island.

The Field Day was to Three Mile where Mr. Sleigh led the party to a bowers' playground.

Meeting:- December, 1951. Lecture by Mr. Arnold Perkin on Insect Dispersal. He mentioned the economic aspect of the subject in its attempt to control insect pests by studying their life habits. Mr. Perkins said that there are two methods of dispersal—drift caused by wind and air currents, and migration caused by voluntary action of the insects. To study drift scientists have zoned the atmosphere. Above one thousand feet it is called the plankton zone because the innumerable wind borne insects suggest the current borne minute animal life which constitutes the plankton of the ocean. Examples of butterfly life in Europe and America were cited, and some theories to account for their sense of direction were put forward. After a discussion, Mr. Kurth showed some coloured lantern slides of his collection of orchids which include some rare Cattleyas and Dendrobiums, also slides of Mr. Brock's orchids, and some cases of butterflies.

FIELD DAY. Because of the holiday season, the field day was declared to be a members' field day, all members to observe natural history subjects wherever they were and to report when they returned home.

Meeting:- 4th January, 1952. Miss Hopkins spoke of birds she had observed during December, mentioning the Red Winged Parrot, *Aprosmictus erythropterus*, which visits her home. At Ingham she observed the Shining Starling, *Aplonis metallica*, and watched them gathering nesting material; and the Grey Swiftlet, *Collocasia franciea*, and the Crimson Finches, *Neochmia phaetom*, also the Golden Headed Fantail Warbler, *Cisticola exilis*, the Yellow Oriole, *Oriolus flavocinctus*, Dusky Honeyeater, *Myzomela obscura*, the Black Butcher Bird, *Cractetus quoyi*, and the Shining Flycatcher, *Piezorhynchus alecto*. Mr. Brock spoke on the currawongs and their habits. He also exhibited the leaves of the wunmakai (finger cherry). Mr. Kennedy spoke of the trips he took to Shelly Beach, through the Common to the Black River and Shelly Beach from Cape Pallerenda. Owing to members being away, the Field Day was observed as a members' Field Day.

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