

the head came into my hands it had been neglected, and the most of the hair had been destroyed by moths. I kept it in a close box with plenty of camphor, and some time after I noticed a thin growth of very fine scattered hair in patches over the scalp. I was much surprised when I observed this, some years ago, before I came to Australia. Since then the head has been kept in a box in Glasgow, without any special care, but my younger brother, who was not aware of my having noticed the hair, in sending it out to me a few months ago, called my attention to the growth, which he also had noticed. In order to gain definite information, I have marked a part of the scalp with a circle of lead pencil, and have closely shaved the hair from it. As there were signs of the depredations of insect larvæ in the dried flesh, I carefully injected all parts save that reserved for the hair observation, with an alcoholic solution of corrosive sublimate. This had the effect of dislodging a couple of fat grubs.

## DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW AUSTRALIAN PLANTS, WITH OCCASIONAL OTHER ANNOTATIONS,

BY BARON VON MUELLER, K.C.M.G., M. & PH. D., F.R.S.

(Continued.)

### PEPEROMIA ENERVIS.

Rather dwarf, erect or diffuse, flaccid, glabrous; branches upwards angular; leaves small, on short petioles, ternately or some quaternately verticillate, cuneate-obovate, the lateral venules almost obliterated; spikes extremely slender, mostly terminal, conspicuously but thinly pedunculate; flowers in close proximity; bracts very minute, orbicular; ovulary almost entirely emersed, bearing the stigma obliquely; fruitlet minute, almost globular.

On Mount Bartle Frere; Stephen Johnson.

From some few inches to nearly one foot high. Leaves  $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{3}{4}$  inch long. Spikes solitary or occasionally two together, generally 1–1  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches long. Flowers unknown. Fruitlets, when dry, slightly rough. Mons. Casimir de Candolle, who received specimens from me, to bring his unrivalled knowledge of Piperaceae to bear on this singularly local plant, places it near *P. obversa* among the 370 Peperomias, known to him since describing them monographically in 1869. It received the specific name under our joint authority. Lately also a representative of the order (*Piper Holtzei*) has been discovered in N.W. Australia.

### GARCINIA WARRENII.

Glabrous; branchlets robust, angular; leaves of firm texture, on short petioles, mostly lanceolar-ovate, their primary lateral venules numerous and somewhat prominent particularly beneath;

flowers rather large, crowded into axillary clusters ; outer sepals very short ; petals four, largely pale ; staminal mass of the male flowers divided almost to the base into four ovate lobes, about half as long as the petals ; anthers extremely numerous, densely covering the inner side of the lobes to near the base, pale, partly on very short filaments, partly sessile, their cells divergent, widely dehiscent ; rudimentary pistil rather thick, angular, with a convex stigma.

Near the Coen-River ; Stephen Johnson.

A tree, to 40 feet high. Well developed leaves 3-5 inches long. Flowers on short thick pedicels. Sepals almost semi-orbicular, the inner only about  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch long, though exceeding the outer. Petals obovate or verging somewhat into an orbicular form, incurved, with broad base sessile, seldom longer than  $\frac{1}{3}$  inch, in front slightly and irregularly denticulated. Staminal mass somewhat adherent to the petals. Anthers almost quadrivalvular. Rudimentary pistil about  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch long. Female flowers and fruit not yet seen. The staminal arrangement is much like that of *G. cornea* and *G. Merguensis*, but both are in several other respects very distinct. The leaves are not unlike those of the imperfectly known *G. neglecta* (Vieillard) ; the venulation of them is much more prominent than in *G. subtilinervis*, of which the flowers are unknown.

This in the flora of Australia very remarkable plant is dedicated to Dr. Warren, the accomplished and learned Professor of Engineering in the Sydney University.

#### GLOSSOGYNE ORTHOCHAETA.

Stem towards the base few-branched, somewhat woody ; leaves much crowded along the lower part of the branches and of the stem, mostly pinnately divided, their segments distant, narrow-linear, much pointed ; upper leaves few, remote, undivided, linear ; flower-headlets solitarily terminating elongated simple peduncle-like branches ; involucre bracts rather numerous, somewhat scarious towards the summit and thus far soon reflexed ; floral bracts bluntish ; receptacle rather ample ; fruits numerous, about as long as the bracts, terminated into two much shorter quite erect slightly retro-hispidulous setules.

Near the South Coen-River ; Stephen Johnson.

Root not seen. Height to 2 feet. Leaves to 3 inches long, the lower often reflexed and some of these undivided. Corollas and therefore also stamens and stigmas not yet available. Fruiting headlets fully  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in diameter. Fruits  $\frac{1}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch long, compressed, narrow, blackish, streaked ; the setules often only at the apex barbed.

So far as the vegetative and carpologic characters allow to judge, this plant cannot be excluded from the genus *Glossogyne* ;

but it is possible that hereafter from floral notes another generic place may have to be assigned to this species. The bracts almost conceal the fruits ; this already gives the plant an aspect different to that of *G. tenuifolia* ; the ramification is also less, the leaves are longer and their segments narrower, furthermore the fruits are shorter and their setules not divergent ; the leaves are in form not unlike those of *Bidens lineariloba*, but seem never doubly segmentose.

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### CORRESPONDENCE.

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*To the Editor of the Victorian Naturalist.*

DEAR SIR,—It may interest my fellow Naturalists to hear that one of our prettiest ornamental trees has been added to the list of “dangerous foreigners.” Recent investigations following sad experiences have shown that the *Robinia pseudacacia* possesses very poisonous properties. In the establishment of a certain wood-turner, all the men working with robinia-wood, and therefore inhaling the fine dust, consisting of minute particles of the wood, suffered very severely. The *Pferdefreund*, a journal devoted to the interests of lovers of horse-flesh and horse breeders, reports that horses, after eating the leaves and bark of the Robinia, soon showed symptoms of paralysis of the hind legs, dying shortly after. The *post-mortem* examination proved the bowels, mucous membranes, and lungs to be affected by the poison. In other instances the horses which had eaten of the plant, and which were similarly affected, recovered, but remained extremely feeble for a long time after. The German *Pharmaceutic Gazette* now explains that the bark of the Robinia contains a highly poisonous albuminose (1.66 per cent.)

G. RENNER.

Department of the Government Botanist,  
28th October, 1891.

*To the Editor of the Victorian Naturalist.*

DEAR SIR,—I have been noticing one of our luminous centipedes. The light is spread over the lower surface of the body. The luminous matter appears to come from two glands, specially devoted for its formation. These phosphorescent glands on being pressed exudes a sticky, yellowish matter, possessing a distinctive disagreeable odour. A curious feature in this luminosity is that it comes and goes, which may be attributable to the various seasons ; but it is always present during the autumn. It has been suggested that this luminosity is connected with the pairing season.—Yours truly,

JAS. LIDGETT.

Myrniong, 3rd May, 1891.



Mueller, Ferdinand von. 1891. "Descriptions of New Australian Plants, with occasional other annotations; (continued) [*Peperomia enervis*; *Garcinia Warrenii*; *Glossogyne orthochaeta*; Nov 1891]." *The Victorian Naturalist* 8, 109–111.

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