

November 20, 1963. On this day the male flew very high and clung to the aviary netting with a large winged insect. He called repeatedly and excitedly until the female left the nest and joined him. She caught hold of one end of the insect and a tug-of-war occurred. After a short time she let go. He again presented the insect and another tug-of-war took place. Again she released her hold. The male finally presented the insect and she swallowed it.

November 22, 1963. The male bird was found dead, whereupon the female deserted her nest containing one egg and commenced the task of feeding her baby of the first nest.

December 25, 1963. The baby was rapidly moulting into adult female plumage but was still being fed by her mother and in fact was fed right up to January 3, 1964. By the end of January the youngster had attained adult plumage but was not as bright as her mother.

The nests constructed by the female Scarlet Robin were quite unlike the typical nest of this species. Cup shaped and *very roughly* built of dried grass, paper bark, hemp and a little spiders' web. No lichen was used. She certainly adapted herself to alien surroundings.

Live termites (white ants) were always on hand. Cheese crumbs and a mixture composed of beef dripping, poultry laying mash, wheat germ, Casinal and honey was supplied each day. Three small electric light globes attracted insects each night.

Much of the success was due to my wife's unending toil in keeping up the supply of insects as food.

A NEW SPECIES OF BANKSIA FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA

By C. A. GARDNER

Banksia Lullfitzii C. A. Gardn. sp. nov.

Frutex erectus, densus, 1.6 m. attingens, ramis validis; ramulis erectis, subflexuosis, cinereo-tomentosis. *Folia* erecta, rigida, plus-minusve tortuosa, elongato-linearia, longe petiolata, usque 40 cm. longa, dentato-incisa, dentibus late et oblique deltoideis, remotis, 3-5 mm. long., pungentibus, decurrentibus omnium distantibus, enervis (costa media excepta), supra glabra enervia, subtus reticulatis, alte lacunosis, lacunis albo-lanatis, demum glabratis, rhachi anguste marginantibus.

Spicae terminantibus vel lateralibus, cylindricis, usque 15 cm. longis et 9 cm. diam., foliae pauce obvallatae; bractea rufo-villosae, apice triangularibus. *Perianthium* aurantiacum, 3-3.2 cm. long., dense tomentosum, limbum acutum, 5-6 mm. long.; stylus rigidus, arcuato-curvatus, perianthium paule excedens, glaber; squamae hypogynae nullae; ovarium parvum, apice dense pilosum; stigma leviter striata.

Follicula compressa, obliqua, superne obovata-orbicularia, 2 cm. long. et 13 mm. lata, breviter tomentosa, demum glabra; semina

nigra; late cuneata, obliqua, basi acuta, 10-13 mm. longa et 12 mm. lata, in alam valde obtusa producta.

Hb. in distr. Coolgardie prope Koorarawalyee, in campis arenosis apertis, fl. m. Feb. Mart., *Gardner* 16411, TYPUS; etiam haud procul Southern Cross in acacietis lutosi.

Frederico Jacobo Lullfitz nominata Hortis Botanicorum Perthensis, speciminum ascripto, viro botanicorum speciminum colligendorum studiosissimo et itinere quod nuper peregrinus comiti benigno.

The species is close to *B. Benthamiana* C. A. Gardn., from which it differs in the much smaller size and different habit, larger leaves with divaricate pungent-pointed lobes, much larger flowering spikes with larger and densely tomentose (not silky appressed hairy) perianths, and in the differently shaped and larger fruiting spikes with much larger follicles and persistent perianths.

Banksia Elderiana F. Muell. et Tate has a similar habit and foliage, but the spikes are always nutant, and the smaller perianths are glabrous in the upper half, and appressed-silky in the lower, the cones much smaller, and the follicle much smaller and more compressed.

AN ABORIGINAL MEAL

By I. M. CRAWFORD, W.A. Museum, Perth.

In January, 1965, Mr. M. Gillett donated to the Museum a small collection of bones which he had picked up on a camp site about 60 miles west of the South Australian border on the 27th parallel. The bones are believed to be the remnants of a meal (possibly more than one) eaten by Aborigines. The bones have been weathered slightly, but do not appear to be many years old. The location of the site suggests that the meal was eaten by Aborigines travelling between settlements, and that these Aborigines had temporarily reverted from a European type of diet to a traditional one. The bones, therefore, give some indication of the animal element in the present day diet of Aborigines who live by traditional means.

Mrs. Helen Henderson has identified among the specimens Domestic Cat (*Felis catus*), and European Rabbit (*Oryctolagus cuniculus*) on the basis of dentition. A pelvic fragment does not belong to these species and agrees with kangaroo. It is too large to be fox or dog and is not wombat (*Lasiorhinus*) which might be expected in the area. All other non-dental fragments have been compared with skeletons of *Felis catus*, *Vulpes vulpes*, *Oryctolagus cuniculus*, *Isodon obesulus*, *Perameles bougainvillei*, *Trichosurus vulpecula*, *Lagorchestes conspicillatus*, *Macrotis lagotis*, and *Dasyurus geoffroyi*, all of which (or their close relatives) would not be unexpected in the area. *Lagorchestes hirsutus*, *Bettongia penicillata*, *Bettongia lesueuri*, and *Petrogale lateralis* could also occur in the area, but comparison has not been made with these. All these non-dental fragments correspond with either *Felis catus* or *Oryctolagus cuniculus* and no others.



Gardner, Charles A. 1966. "A New Species of Banksia From Western Australia." *The Western Australian Naturalist* 10(3), 68–69.

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