

REPORT OF A COLLECTING TRIP TO NORTH-EASTERN
QUEENSLAND DURING APRIL TO SEPTEMBER, 1889.

BY MESSRS. E. J. CAIRN & R. GRANT.

(Abridged from their Report to the Curator.)

DR. RAMSAY'S instructions to us on leaving Sydney were to make our way if possible to the higher peaks of the Bellenden-Ker range and Mt. Bartle-Frere on the eastern fall, and to endeavour to obtain specimens of all Mammals, especially *Deutrolagus*, and to collect Birds, Insects, &c.

We left Sydney on the 12th April, and arrived at Cairns on the 20th inst. The rain was exceptionally late this season, for instead of commencing as usual in December, it had only really set in a fortnight or so before our arrival, so that to have gone into the ranges would have been useless. We therefore collected in the neighbourhood of Cairns for some weeks when the weather would permit, and made a camp about sixteen miles north of Cairns (Double Island) for a fortnight, hoping to get a new Lyre-Bird that was reported to have been shot there. We obtained a fair number of Birds and Insects, several amongst the latter we understand will prove new. The *P. archeri* however was the only Mammal shot or seen.

On the 30th June we returned to Cairns, where we shipped all our gear and started for Boar Pocket on the Cairns-Herberton Road. We fixed on this place for a camp, as provisions are obtainable near, and the rivers Russell, Mulgrave, Johnson, and Barron head at no great distance. It is a patch of forest country about a square mile in extent surrounded by a dense vine scrub.

On making enquiries we found that the natives had been brought in by the police at Atherton, a township on the other side of the Barwon River, ten miles from our camp, and they were also in on the Russell River diggings. We obtained the assistance of two or three with their gins, and had them attached to the camp until the murders on the Russell were committed. They proved exceedingly useful, and without their help we could not have collected so large a number and variety of animals. We never saw *Pseudochirus lemuroides* and *P. herbertensis* until they hunted them out, these species being apparently strictly nocturnal.

We found *Pseudochirus lemuroides* (native name "Yappi") in holes high up, usually on good sized trees. They are exceedingly active when disturbed, running and jumping along the tree tops, at times taking prodigious leaps from tree to tree. In this they resemble a flying squirrel but do not make such an easy slope,