

CONTRIBUTION TO A KNOWLEDGE OF PAPUAN  
ARACHNIDA.

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THE present paper comprises a list of the species of Papuan Arachnida, in the possession of the Trustees. The collection, although numerous in point of specimens, can scarcely be considered *representative* as far as species are concerned. For the most part, the specimens enumerated hereunder have been collected from time to time by Missionaries, few of whom possess that special knowledge so necessary to a successful collector.

Some of the specimens recorded below were collected under the auspices of His Excellency Sir Wm. McGregor, M.D., K.C.M.G., at the St. Joseph's River; and some were collected by Mr. W. W. Froggatt, at the Fly River, in his capacity as Naturalist to the Geographical Society of Australasia's Expedition in 1885.\* The species most common in all collections from New Guinea are those whose arboreal habits or size render them conspicuous, such as *Argyropeira grata*, Guérin, *A. celebesiana*, Walck., and the huge *Nephila maculata*, Fab.

It is to be regretted that a field so full of interest from a zoological point of view, should be left almost entirely to the enterprise of foreign collectors, and this notwithstanding the fact that it is so close to our doors. Although numerous collectors have at times visited New Guinea, the two principal expeditions from Sydney have been the "Chevert" Expedition in 1875, and the Geographical Society's Expedition, referred to above. The Araneidæ collected by the former were recorded by Mr. H. H. B. Bradley.†

The reader is also referred to a previous paper by me, entitled "Contributions to a Knowledge of the Arachnidan Fauna of British New Guinea."‡

Some of the specimens are vaguely labelled "British New Guinea," whilst others are distinctly located; thus in the localities recorded below as "British New Guinea, St. Joseph's River," the information intended to be conveyed is—that some specimens are known from the latter locality specifically, and others from British New Guinea generally; and where the words "British New Guinea" appear between parenthesis, the object is to localise the preceding name.

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\* See Proc. Geogr. Soc. Austr., special vol., 1885.

† Proc. Linn. Soc. N. S. Wales, i., 1876, pt. 2, pp. 137 - 150; pt. 3, pp. 220 - 224, and plates.

‡ *Ibid.*, xxiii., 1898, pt. 3, pp. 328 - 356, pl. vii.