

*Li-Rite*

PATENTS PENDING

*Notes*

FIVE CENTS

No. 520

LI-RITE LICENSE NO. 1

(1)

Australia 1936-37 exp.  
Oct. 3-7, 1936

Springbrook, McPherson Range

alt. 2500 feet.

Forest country with clearings on ridges. Some lumbering being done and wood roads are cut through virgin jungle.

On ridges in the clear land are many fallen trees and burned out logs and stumps. Two species of large skinks (*Egernia*) inhabit this region. Both are very shy and retreat into the fallen <sup>gum</sup> eucalyptus logs which have the hearts rotted out and which offer a safe retreat. It is necessary to have a couple of good ax men to cut out the logs in order to capture them. It is a mornings work to get one and if one is

lucky to get two.

Investigated some of the trails in the forest and saw one Carpet Snake, which escaped.

One Death Adder <sup>spec. #11</sup> was taken in a clearing the jungle from which a large *Encalyptus* tree had been cut

The Snake was coiled close to the trail in a semi-upposed position and blended with the surroundings making it difficult to detect.

Few small shrubs seen besides the large species, but reptile life is most particularly abundant. Country has been suffering from lack of rain according to reports

(3)

Spec. # 25

Oct 7 - Collected one small frog in leaf axils of a bullock in drying up puddle near a water trough. Frog concealed under thick debris covering leaf axils. Heard call of one other frog but could not locate it. Water is scarce and no other signs of frogs recorded.

Leaving McPherson Range Oct 8. Only species seen and not collected were a Carpet Snake and an Iguana (*Varanus salutor*). Two Iguanas were about a dead bullock on logging road in the jungle.

The large black skinks taken are known to the wood choppers and rangers as "Bush Fish" and "Land mullets", the large black scales supposedly resembling the scales of the mullet, a common Australian fish.

Arrived at Coomoolooloo, Queensland  
 Oct 9. Country very dry, although some  
 rain came earlier in the season.

Trilled and few lizards are the only  
 species seen in the open, with the exception  
 of a small skink.

Oct 12 Hunted on the site of an old  
 saw mill in hope of getting something  
 under the scattered boards. Spent an  
 afternoon at it with our barman and  
 got one skink and a few frogs.

It requires much time and work  
 to secure the desirable species.

Collected a few Crinias and Hyla  
 about the ranch house, but the weather  
 is so dry it is not the best for Amphibians.

(5)

On our main side this morning saw only one amphibolurus babatus, This lizard was caught on the trunk of a small eucalyptus tree. It lies close to the trunk head upwards and shifts about the tree to the opposite side from the person. This is the habit of the Frilled Lizard too but this latter one keeps the head somewhat lifted, making it a little more easy to locate.

Oct 17<sup>th</sup>

Heat wave for Queensland predicted some days ago seems to have arrived and to day quite hot. Too warm for hunting in general. yesterday visited a lagoon in search of frogs and secured about 3 species along the edges. water was low and mud specimens set as abundant as I expected. Under fallen limbs and

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general debris found one species of  
Crinia<sup>4</sup> and one of Hyla<sup>2</sup>. A small  
grouped colored toad with brown  
black spots on back and red under  
throat was taken (2 specimens) but seemed  
to be rare. Spent a couple of hours at  
the lagoon while fence was being  
repaired. Few and Filled lizards do  
not appear to be particularly common  
right now, but succeeded in collecting  
one Filled lizard this morning.

The country is suffering from lack of rain  
and all the ranchers are hoping for  
a storm to bring water for the cattle.

Two species of geckos found commonly on  
last trip appear to be rare or absent  
at present

(7)

spend each evening frog hunting about the  
ranch house. Find Two <sup>or three</sup> Species of Hyla  
and a Crinia. They seem to be very silent  
just at this time and few calls are  
heard. It is so dry it seems strange  
that any should be about but the  
light watering the garden gets probably  
keep a few about the plants

my host, Mr Barnard, says Filled Sponds  
should be more abundant now, but  
the heat at present may keep them in  
the thicker growth and make them  
difficult to detect. They seem to prefer  
the smaller trees and cling close to the  
trunk with feet folded and head up  
a little; more so than the few Sponds  
which cling close to the trunk and  
flatten the body. Both species were  
reproduced.



Oct 18 Mr Barward's brother Henry was bitten  
by a small *Hoplocephalus bitorquatus* and  
received quite a severe jolt, though this snake is  
classed as mildly venomous. His reaction was  
as follows - Pulling a piece of bark off a  
tree preparatory to ring-barking it he was  
bitten on the fore finger of the right hand.  
A tourniquet was immediately applied  
and the wound cut deeply and sucked, then  
permanganate crystals applied. On being  
bitten the hand and arm swelled at  
once and the part of the finger where  
the fangs entered turned hard and white,  
no blood coming when the lump was  
cut. The arm bitten ached considerably  
and a cold sweat broke out the  
perspiring being quite free. The opposite

arm ached for a time and it was not until towards evening that the patient <sup>had</sup> much relief. Next morning there seemed to be no effects from the venom itself, but the finger was sore and swollen from the cutting of the wound.

Oct 20

Weather still very hot and over Barro Colorado <sup>is</sup> in hopes of rain to improve conditions. Hunting seems to be poorer in very hot weather.

Oct 29

Heat wave for past week continues and no storm in sight yet. Frog collecting at night dropping off on account of intense heat and dryness. Spent several evenings going over old hollow logs in search of *Egernia dorsalis*, but only found

a single brown snake by shining  
 spot light into the hollow log, had  
 quite a job cutting the snake out  
 with a hand ax. This morning went  
 hunting with Mr. Barwood and  
 got a few common geckos and  
 a species of *Teneosoma*? that  
 does not seem to fit Kingham's  
 handbook of Australian snakes.  
 This snake was found under a  
 small log in the scrub trees.  
 Everybody is hoping for a rain to  
 relieve the water situation for the  
 cattle.

(11)

Oct 30 made a trip to a water trough  
on the edge of Coombs & Co's cattle  
Ranch. In a drying up stream bed  
under a sand stone took five little  
frogs (~~toad~~) color in life as follows:  
dorsal surface cinnamon with black  
reticulation, back of upper eye legs  
causary yellow; anal opening causary  
yellow; under surfaces marked  
with black and white. a single specimen  
was taken under an old piece of  
wood by a water trough and a series  
of five under a stone

In same streambed a frog found  
a species of Shrub fairly common. They  
appeared to like the anemone from  
the water trough and the little and  
hole in the ditch of stream bed

what appear to be under # 317 colored  
 in life as follows: upper surface  
 brownish with two dorsal-lateral  
 isolated lines, sides red-brown to a  
 point just forward of the anal leg, under  
 surface of tail and breast light greenish  
 blue. Under surface of belly dirty  
 white. The series of skunks #312-324  
 was taken in the stream bed and around  
 the water trough.

Specimen # 325 a small Dermania  
 was scraped from under a pile of dead  
 leaves in drying up creek bottom. Bit  
 swagely when picked up by a pair  
 of forceps. A broad greenish stripe  
 down the gastrosteges

Skunks of this type have the habit of

Stopping on the tops of small rocks  
and wave their tails about slowly and  
gracefully forming circles at the tips

Nov 3. No rain as yet and country very  
dry. Went into Stringy Bark Eucalyptus  
Country this morning and found no signs  
of reptiles whatever. Mr. Bernard was in  
hopes of finding some of the "Large Brown  
Lizard" (Egernia dorsalis?) but we saw  
no signs of anything. Mr. Bernard informed  
me the native name for this lizard  
is oo-boo-buh-which means "looking  
out" from the fact that when dis-  
covered they are <sup>usually</sup> looking out of  
the mouth of some large log. It  
appears to be a rare species about here

Nov. 5. Day weather continues and no hope for rain seems to be in sight. Traveled about 40 miles in auto truck today and did not see even an iguana which, would seldom be missed in a trip of that length through the Bush. We did not see an amphitritons or a *F. rufus* lizard for days and two men hung-buckling trees were reported seeing none for over a week. These, with the iguanas, seem to be the only lizards seen in the open about here, with the possible exception of a small species of skink.

Arrived at Talata: 20 mi. S. of Emerald  
 Nov. 17 typical sheep country with large  
 open paddocks and patches of trees. These  
 paddocks are known as Brigalow Scrub and  
 seem to harbor most of the reptile life  
 of the country. Observations of the past week  
 showed no reptiles whatever outside of  
 the scrub except the Sand Spiner (*Varanus  
 goldii*). There are two species of geckos  
 found commonly in the scrub, *Oedura*  
*?* and *gibbera*, and one large skink  
 which I take to be *Egernia striolata*. This  
 is an extremely difficult species to capture.  
 It is never found in the open, but always  
 under the bark of the Brigalow. Upon pulling  
 off or decaying the bark the lizard runs  
 swiftly to the top branches of the tree and  
 then down the opposite side to its presumed  
 Endeavouring to get on the ground where

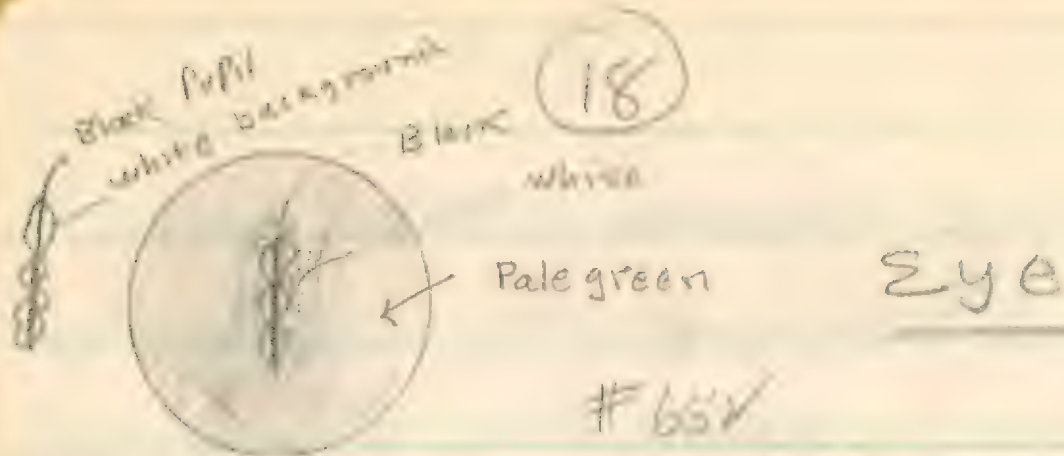


disappears as if by magic. On reaching the ground it makes a loud rustle of the leaves as it clatters behind a small branch or log and then all is quiet as it moves <sup>and quietly</sup> swiftly away. It is next to impossible to capture them once they reach the ground; the only hope is to keep them up the tree and try and shoot them as they slide under the loose bark. These are the most difficult of all the Australian Insects that I have met to capture. Two young were taken from specimen #471 which shows them to be ovoviviparous.

The two species of Geckos have the same habit of trying to reach the ground, but more often will run towards the top of the tree if there is sufficient bark to offer shelter. In the case of small trees they usually get to the ground and disappear.

into holes about the base of the tree  
or nearby cracks in the ground:

On Nov 23 Saw and captured the only Varanus  
punctatus I have caught, I did not know the  
week. Like most places in Australia  
that I have collected in nothing much is  
in sight, except the <sup>one possible Therapsid</sup> Therapsid. It is  
essential to have plenty of debris on the  
ground, or ring-barked trees and old  
stumps with the bark loose enough  
to give shelter. It appears that trees which  
have been or are infested with ants are  
in most cases not inhabited by any of  
the skinks or geckos.



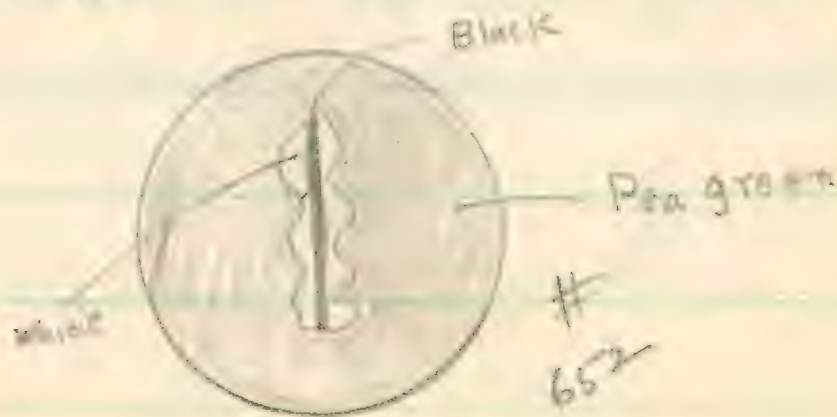
Root of mouth and tongue indigo blue

Body covered with small black spots.

Ground color grayish. Center Row of dorsal dots larger than lateral and speckled with white. Also late dorsal band beginning a little forward of hind legs.

This specimen, which I take to be gymnodoctus taenicata, was evidently brushed from the top of a Bridlow tree as it was being chipped down, the fire of the ax cutting the tree must have dislodged it as it fell at the foot of the woodchopper. On examining the top of the tree it appeared that the insect was admirably fitted as to protection

coloration. The color of the eye connoted the leaves, the stems of the leaves joining the branches were just the color of the dorsal band on the tail and the grayish limbs with their markings of black & silvery gray blended with the body. There was no rusty or loose bark. This lizard would be very hard for an enemy to detect, but I had never found Geckos unless underneath some shelter. #653 was found under bark at the top of an old fence post covered by the top of a small shoot of a Dragon tree of the same general color at the place where #652 was knocked out of.



Arrived at Petra Sheep Station from Magenta Station Nov 30. Stopped around it. Magenta and collected some *Hyla caerulea* and *Dendrobates*, only two species seen. Magenta is typical sheep country of grassy plain and scattered scrub trees, though not as well timbered as Petra. The country about Petra is now dry, much drier than in August when I visited here last in 1929.

Spent two days in the scrub and found collecting poor compared to last visit, only *Cadana maculata* and a *Gobion*<sup>2</sup> being at all plentiful and owing to grass fires much of their shelter has been destroyed and watered, such as stumps and fence

posts will have or are nowhere to be found. A few Lepids (*Lygocoma taeniatum*) and (*Amphibolus barbatus*) are to be found about the garden and out buildings. Collected two in a grassy slope and one alongside a hayrack. Gathered in about 20 Hylas or so from about the house and the crop is getting thinned out. Took four pupae and 2 hymenoptera from a well that was being cleaned out.

Dec 5

Collected a specimen of Diploclotus deindadmeri close to Station House at Peter, Mrs. Allan, the manager wife, took one before and sent it to Longman at the Brisbane Museum. He informed her it had never been

taken in Queensland before and was seldom seen before. It being a rare species. This specimen was taken at P.P.M. on the road from the yards to the house in what is known as red ridge country, the soil being red and rocky.

The following evening <sup>7/10/6</sup> another specimen was collected within a radius of 30 yards and in a similar position. The bushes in the vicinity are known as wild currant, a low growing bush with sharp thorns and quite sparse in this particular locality. The gerts was found in the middle of the road, coming close to the lantern and was easily captured.

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During the past week collected about 15 Syngaster taeniolatus about the gardens and yards of the station house. They were not so shy as out in the bush, being accustomed to people being about and were fairly easy to shoot. In the bush itself it is a difficult lizard to capture.

Dec 7.

This a.m. examined a fence made from the <sup>ti</sup> tea tree (posts) and collected about 30 specimens of (D. spizella Stephens)<sup>?</sup>, examining approximately 150 posts. These geckos were found under the loose bark and although somewhat active were not near so as the other species of geckos found about here. However,



if they were not captured as soon as  
the bomb was lifted from the post and  
found they were in danger they became  
quite active and endeavored to run  
down the post and escape in cracks  
in the packed soil.

Dec 23<sup>rd</sup> arrived at Kolonga Station  
 25 miles north of Guigay, Queensland  
 Plateau Country with grass land and  
 scattered Eucalyptus trees. The Brigalow  
 scrub so characteristic of the Sheep  
 Country is entirely absent. Mr Campbell,  
 the owner of Kolonga, informs me that  
 it is very dry and rain is badly needed.  
 Water rations rather short in consequence.

There is a fair sized creek bed  
 close to the station house and despite  
 the drought it has running water in  
 it at present. One side creek I  
 examined had a few deep water  
 pools in it and a few water dragons  
 were seen close to the deep water. They  
 are extremely shy and almost impossible  
 to get a shot at. Succeeded in getting  
 one young one. Saw about 3 adults.

a black skink (*Lygosoma*) is not  
common by any means but about  
five were seen and one medium  
sized specimen and one juvenile  
were taken this afternoon (Dec 25). This  
morning two were taken under a piece  
of corrugated iron that was about  
half buried in the water of a small  
lagoon. This *Lygosoma* frequents  
the banks of lagoons and streams  
in some locations where it can  
easily dive under the water and hide  
in the mass of sticks or debris  
washed up when the stream was  
running high. Like the Water Dragon  
it is very shy and difficult to  
get a shot at. On too close an  
approach they will dive into the  
water and it is then impossible  
to dislodge them. When sitting

out in the open they are never where they can cover themselves at the slightest alarm.

Jan. 24 Visited the head of Kolonyo creek about 10 am. west of Kolonyo Station and worked a creek with numerous grass patches in the bed, the grass protruding from the water and all the frogs taken at this locality were found in the patches of grass. One water snake was taken under a piece of log in the stream bed. Skinks (*Typhlops* sp.) were fairly plentiful for that species and three or four specimens were collected. These were all found in the usual type of habitat, hollow logs or logs with plants of debris about, the piles of which were formed when the stream was at flood. There must be fairly deep water and the logs and debris partly in it. At the slightest alarm

They dive into the water and do not appear again, so it is useless to await them coming out as other lizards. Sometimes do out of curiosity no doubt to see if the intruder has gone.

The Small Black Snake taken on this date was dug out of a rotten log.

Hoplocephalus appears to be the most common Snake in the vicinity of Kolonga Station, all those taken were found in similar situations - under bark of stumps and never under logs or debris. They may be either at the top of the stump where the bark is fairly loose and allowing plenty of cover, or may be secreted under the bark close to the bottom of the stump, where loose earth partly covers them.

(29)

Epilobium repens tenuis

~~Epilobium~~ repens tenuis is fairly common shrub  
about Kolony - all specimens taken were  
under bark on standing dead trees or on  
stumps, never under logs on the ground.

A crossbanded Lygosoma (foundator?) is  
more plentiful here than I have found it  
elsewhere. This lizard was taken under  
old logs and debris of most any kind,  
but never under bark of stumps or trees.

Two fine adult specimens were taken under  
an iron tank that had been standing  
on the ground for a considerable time.

(First specimens taken at Kolony)

Fruited Lizards and Sand Lizards are  
common species in this locality.

