

*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 limbering 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 me 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>sp. #11</sup> was taken in a clearing the jungle from which a large Eucalyptus 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 lizards seen besides the large species, but reptile life is not particularly abundant. Country has been suffering from lack of rain according to reports

(3)

Spec. # 25

Oct 7 - Collected one small frog in hoof mark of a bullock in drying up puddle near a water trough. Frog concealed under thick debris covering hoof mark. 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 ranchers as "Bush Fish" and "Land mullets", the large black scales supposedly resembling the scales of the mullet, a common Australian fish.

(4)

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

Skilled 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 Mr. Barwood and  
got me skink and a few frogs.

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

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

(5)

On our return ride 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

(6)

general debris found one species of  
Crura<sup>1</sup> and one of Hyla<sup>2</sup>. A small  
ground colored toad with several  
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 Sings  
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 Sings  
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 our Barometer <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 getting the snake out  
 with a hand ax. This morning went  
 hunting with all forward and  
 got a few common geckos and  
 a piece of *Tamias*? That  
 does not seem to fit Kinghorn'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 Coonrocks-Cross cattle  
brands. In a drying up stream bed  
under a single stone took five little  
frog (~~toads~~) Color in life as follows:  
dorsal surface cinnamon with black  
reticulation, back of upper eye legs  
causary yellow; anal opening causary  
yellow; under surface marbled  
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 which fairly common. They  
appeared to like the moisture from  
the water trough and the little and  
hole in the dried up stream bed.

What appears to be under # 317 colored  
 like as follows: upper surface  
 brownish with two dorsal lateral  
 whitish lines, sides reddish to a  
 faint part forward of the anal leg, under  
 surface of tail and throat light greenish  
 blue. Under surface of belly dirty  
 white. The series of limbs # 315-325  
 was taken in the stream bed and around  
 the water trough.

Specimen # 325 a small Javanica  
 was reared on under a pile of dead  
 leaves in dipping up creek bottom. Bit  
 voraciously when fed up by a pair  
 of forceps. A broad greenish stripe  
 down the gastrosteges

I think of this type have the habit of

stepping on the tops of small rocks  
and some these 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 one sign  
of reptiles whatever. Mr. Howard was in  
hopes of finding some of the "Large Brown  
Lizard" (Egernia dorsalis?) but we saw  
no signs of anything. Mr. Howard informed  
me the native name for this lizard  
is oo-boo-buh - which means 'looking  
out' from the <sup>snout</sup> that when dis-  
covered they are <sup>usually</sup> looking out of  
the mouth of some large log. It  
appears to be a new species about 6 in

Nov. 5. Dry weather continues and our life  
 for now seems to be as usual. Traveled  
 about 40 miles in auto truck today  
 and did not see even one iguana  
 which would seldom be missed in  
 a trip of that length. Through the Bush  
 we did not see an amphibia of any  
 kind. I called Bryant for help and two men  
 were looking for him but 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  
 lizard.

Arrived at Talata: 20 mi. S. of Emerald  
 Nov. 17 typical sheep country with large  
 open paddocks and patches of trees. There  
 appears no known or English bank and  
 seem to harbor most of the reptile life  
 of the country. However after first visit  
 showed no reptiles - but on a side of  
 the road except the Sand Squam (some  
 goulds). There are two species of geckos  
 found commonly in the woods, *Crotaphytus*  
*sp.*, and are large - but  
 which I take to be *Egernia stridator*. This  
 is an extremely difficult specimen to capture.  
 It is never found in the open, but always  
 under the bark of the *Singdon*. Upon pulling  
 off or developing the bark the lizard runs  
 swiftly to the top branches of the tree and  
 then down the opposite side to its previous  
 Endeavouring to get on the ground where



disappear as if by magic. On reaching the ground it makes a loud rattle of the wings and it starts backward a small branch or log and then all is quiet as it moves swiftly <sup>and quietly</sup> away. It is next to impossible to capture them once they reach the ground. The only hope is to keep them up in the air and try and catch them as they land under the tree. I have seen one the most difficult part the construction of a house that it is next to impossible.

Two young were taken from specimen #471 which shows them to be very young.

The two species of Geobea 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 wind resistance. In the case of small trees they usually get to the ground and disappear.

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

On Nov 23 Saw and captured the only Varanus  
perchlorus I have caught since I began the  
week. Like most places in Australia  
that I have explored a rolling Varanus  
is <sup>or possibly Varanus</sup> perchlorus is  
found to have plenty of holes in the  
ground, and being Varanus perchlorus and old  
stumps with the bark loose Varanus  
to give shelter. It appears that trees which  
had been or are perchlorus perchlorus are  
in most cases not inhabited by any of  
the Skinks or geckos



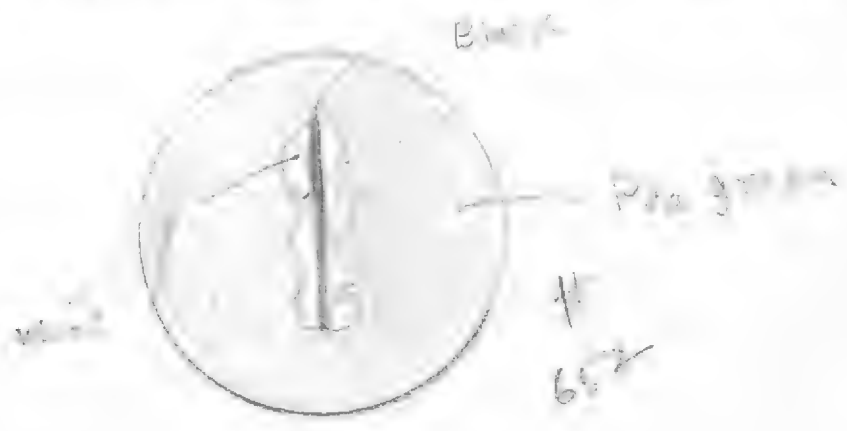
Root of mouth and tongue Indigo blue

Body covered with small black spots.

Ground color grayish. Center row of dorsal dots larger than lateral and separated with white. No late dorsal band beginning a little forward of hind legs.

This specimen, which I take to be gymnoides hirsuta, was originally hatched from the top of a Bridlow tree as it was being stripped down the side of the cap hitting the tree cannot now distinguish it as it fell at the foot of the woodchuck. On examining the top of the tree it appeared that the ground was admirably fitted as to protection

observation. The color of the egg resembled  
 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. These areas are mostly on lower  
 parts. This liquid would be very hard for  
 an enemy to detect, but that was found  
 under shelter 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 Douglas tree of the same general  
 color as that from which # 652 was knocked  
 out of.



arrived at Petra Sheep Station from Waggamba  
Station Nov 30. It is a small station.

Waggamba and Waggamba are only 10 miles  
apart. Waggamba is only 10 miles from  
Petra.

Waggamba is a typical sheep station  
with a few scattered scrub  
trees, though not as well timbered as  
Petra. The country about Petra was very  
dry several years ago. In August  
when I visited here last year 1903.

Waggamba has a large area of scrub and  
land suitable for sheep. The land is  
well watered and the sheep are  
very fat. The country is well watered  
and the grass is very good. The  
sheep are very fat and the  
country is very good.

posts will look as well as elsewhere to be found. A few Lepidoptera (*Hygroplitis taeniata*) and (*Amphibolus barbatus*) are to be found about the garden and out building. Collected two in a grassy slope and one alongside a bayonet garden in about 20 Hylas on 20 June about the same and the crop is yellow thinned out. Took some specimens in a grassy area from a small field was being cleared out.

Dec 5

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

Taken in Queensland Cape and was  
collected from the same  
species. This specimen was taken  
at 8 PM 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>7:00</sup> another specimen  
was collected within a radius of  
30 yards and in a similar  
position. The bushes in the  
vicinity are known and consist  
of a low growing bush with sharp  
thorns and quite sparse in  
this particular locality. The  
gecko was found in the saddle of  
the road, coming down to the bottom  
and was easily captured.

(23)

During the past week collected about 15 Sygocora lamellata about the gardens and yards of the station compound. 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 it self it is a difficult lizard to capture.

Dec 7.

This morn. examined a house made from the <sup>21</sup> tea tree (Pots) and collected about 30 specimens of D. spizella (Stephens)?, ranging approximately 152 gms. These geckos were found under the loose bark and although somewhat active were not near so shy 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 22<sup>nd</sup> arrived at Kolong Station  
 25 miles north of Geiger Queensland  
 Plover country, well grass land and  
 scattered Eucalyptus trees. The vegetation  
 scrub is characteristic of the Sheep  
 Country as far as I know, about 3000 feet high,  
 the case of Kolong informs me that  
 it is very dry and now a badly wooded.  
 Water ration is rather short in consequence.

There is a fine sized creek bed  
 close to the station house and despite  
 the drought it has running water in  
 it at present. One side creek I  
 traversed had a few deep water  
 pools in it and a few water holes  
 were seen close to the deep water. They  
 are usually dry and almost impossible  
 to get a lot of. 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 15). This  
morning two more taken with a pair  
of *Microgaster* that were about  
half grown and were taken in the  
lagoon. The *Lygosoma* frequents  
the banks of lagoons and streams  
in some localities where it can  
easily dive under the water and hide  
in the mass of stickon detritus  
washed up when the stream was  
running high. In the water itself  
it is very shy and difficult to  
get a shot at. On land there are  
apparently they will dive into the  
water and it is impossible  
to follow them when sitting

out on the open they will never believe they can cross taking cover at the slightest alarm.

Yic. 24 Visited the head of Kolongo Creek about 10 am. West of Kolongo Station and worked a creek with numerous grass patches in the bed, the grass protruding from the water and all the large holes 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 (*Lycium* group) were fairly plentiful here but few and some in holes. *Lycium* were collected. These were all found in the round top of bushes, hollow logs or logs with pieces of debris about the sides of which were found 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 or 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 over or 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 paths cross them.

(29)

Epilobium rufipes tenuis

~~Epilobium rufipes~~ is a fairly common shrub about Kolonga. all specimens taken were under barks 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 barks 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 Kolonga)

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

