

Supplementary Material 6

Herman Beckler. Notes on plants by Dr Herman Beckler, including remarks on plants collected on a journey from Pamamaro Creek to Korliatto Creek, 4 February – 31 March 1861, together with Dr Mueller's 'suggestions.' 12 pp. C. W. Ligar. Chairman. Records of the Burke and Wills Expedition, 1857–75. [manuscript]. State Library of Victoria. SLV. MS13071. Box 2082/5d.
Transcribed by Beverley Wood.

Herman Beckler Notes on plants collected during the journey from Pamameroo Lake to Korliatto Creek, 28 January to 4 April 1861. [Supply Party journey]

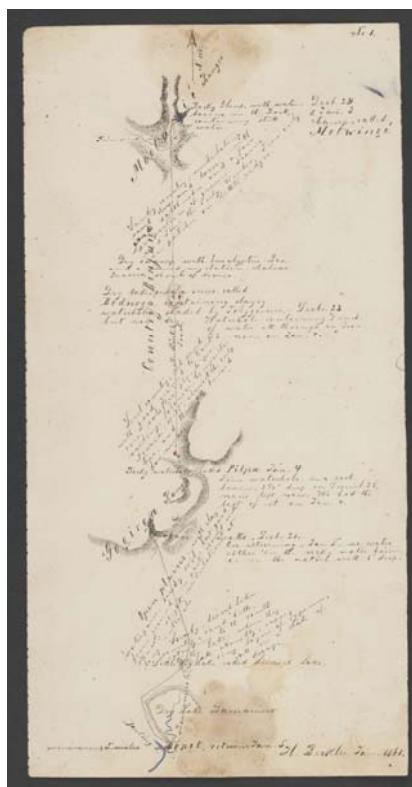
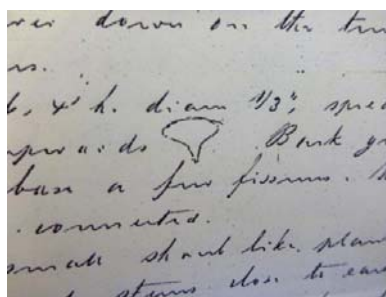


Figure 1. [Beckler H. Map showing the country between the Depot, Gogirqa [Gogirga] Ranges and further north, including geographical descriptions and dates] 1861 SLV H16486.

**Notes on plants collected during the journey
from Pamamaroo Lake to Koorliatto Creek.**

Mutwanji Ranges. Mutwanji. Feb. 4

- Nro 1. Shrub of very light and elegant appearance, spreading. H. 5,' Diam. $\frac{1}{2}$ ".
Bark pale-yellow, quite smooth, like velvet and as if dusted with a blueish powder. In older plants reddish or violet with blueish dust.
- N 3. Grass with strong and pleasant aroma.
- N 4. Thin [thorny] shrub, 6 - 7' h. diam 1". Bark of a fibrous appearance, thin narrow scales of ashy-grey, slight fissures of a light brown color between them.
- N 5. Shrub, spreading, erect, 8" h. $1\frac{1}{2}$ " diam.
Bark grey of a fibrous reticulate appearance, scales fine long narrow netlike splitting, not very prominent, adherent, fissures of the same netlike appearance, but of lighter color.
- N 6. Composite plant of strong aroma.
- N 7. Shrub on the rocky heights above the reservoir. Erect branches often crooked, bark grey with narrow fissures, scales narrow, blackish, little prominent, separate and angular, fissures whitish. H. 6 - 7.' Diam. $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ ".
- N 8. Similar to No. 7. But a smaller shrub H 3.' Diam. $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$,"spreading. Bark grey not rough, fine superficial small scales branches yellowish-red, smooth, rough marks of insertion.
- N 9. Tree, 5 - 20' h. diam 8". Trunk dividing at 4' above the ground into two principal branches. Branches little spreading,
[p2.] smaller branches short with angular bends,
bark dark grey of compact and solid appearance, branchlets smooth, whitish grey with scattered dark marks, bark of the trunk grey, scales like prominent connected ridges of almost equal breadth, even on the surface and light grey, fissures darker and broader than the scales, well defined, lower down on the trunk narrow dark crevices.
- N. 10. Shrub. 4' h. diam $\frac{1}{3}$ ", spreading from the base upwards



Bark grey smooth near the base a few fissures. No scales, epiphloia [epiphloeum] connected.

- N. 11. A small shrub like plant 1 ½ - 2" h.[sic] erect, several stems close to each other, branches many with angular division, bark grey with long, narrow reticulate brownish scales.

Note. N. 1-11. On sandstone rocks, principally above and around the splendid water-basin Mutwanji.

Mutwanji, Feb 5.

- No. 1. A small, stunted, spreading and very branchy tree of frequent occurrence. The same or at least a very similar species noticed already on the sand hills near Pamamaroo. H. 8' diam. 4". Trunk always short. Branches crooked, branchlets going off in wide angles, bark whitish-grey, scales angular as broad as they are long, thin, even on the surface, nearer to the base longer and [p3.] of a fibrous appearance. Fissures narrow.

- N. 2. Shrub collected and noticed formerly from Gogirga.

- No. 3. Noticed also before. Small tree, erect, dense foliage, branches and leaves drooping, 6' h. diam. 1". Bark brownish and smooth, fissure-marked. Scattered white horizontal marks or scars.

Note. These plants are from the open valley, soil sand with loam, of deep yellow or reddish colour.

Nothangbulla (Hodgson's basin). Feb. 6.

- N. 1. A most beautiful and strange looking shrub, 8 - 9' h. diam. 1". (Probably the same as No.1 of Feb.4). Thiny [Thorny], erect, little – spreading, bark deep yellow with a white dust = or velvet like covering, quite smooth, near the base soft flesh colour. (At Mutwanji only one specimen seen). This seems to be the proper habitat of the plant. Entrance to the narrow rocky glen, in the sandy bed of the creek, between sandstone – rocks.

Duroadoo, Feb. 13.

- N. 1. A box tree of irregular, often stunted growth, marking the height of 20'-40' h. the principal timber in and around the swamp. This tree is seldom erect, mostly crooked, the foliage dense and of a pleasant green at a distance. The branches are smooth and white and shed the bark in longish strips.

[p4.] The trunk is round, with prominent bark, thin, grey, loose and fibrous appearance, the fissures only opening, dividing the bark in flame like undentation. (Swamp of Duroadoo)

- Nro. 2. Shrub, spreading and radiating, leafy, branches going off in wider angles, bark light

- grey with insertion marks, lower down rough but not very uneven and dark grey.
- N. 3. Small tree, 8 - 11' h. diam 6 - 8". Leafy and branchy, some of the branches bent downwards. I believe I noticed this plant first at Mutwanji in the entrance to the gorge. Bark grey, scales 1" l. $\frac{1}{3}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ " broad, not very rough, fissures slight and narrow; on the younger branches the fissures are broad and yellowish, the bark over them burst and dilated in a reticulate manner or in longish adherent and connected strips. Near the base many loose scales.
- N. 4. Small shrubs, several stems; 4' fh. $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{3}$ " diam. Bark grey, smooth with black fissure - marks.
- N. 5. New tree without blossoms or fruit. A few specimens growing over an area of about 30 acres. Small tree 15 - 18' h, 4 - 5" diam. erect and of noble growth and appearance. Bark of branches and trunk entire, with a rough surface, nearer the base the bark is burst irregularly, longitudinally and horizontally,

2.

- N. 1. [p5.] some loose scales. Color of bark light ash-grey. Western side of the trunk rather smooth and covered with small roundish thin removable scales. Foliage thick, bright and strikingly contrasting in color with the surrounding vegetation. Habitat: Sand hills, NW from the camp.

Duroadoo, Feb. 14.

Swamp box-trees. Perhaps a different species from the one noticed yesterday. Better growth, more erect and higher. Naked or freshly covered branches of a soft pale yellow, the bark coming off in longish membranous strips. Bark of the trunk prominent with loose - thick scales of white grey, fissures darker with fibrous ridges running through them.

Feb 18. Camp I from Duroadoo, distant from that plain 20 miles.

- N. 1. Shrub, 6 - 9' h. 2" diam. spreading with several stems from a common centre. Bark light grey, quite smooth, younger branches reddish. First noticed at Duroadoo, plentiful here. Sandy waterless country with large clay pans, and a scanty vegetation.

Duroadoo, March 3. Sandhills near camp.

- N. 1. Shrub, very frequent, 3 - 4' h. 1 - $\frac{1}{2}$ " [tiny? shiny?} mostly erect, little spreading, foliage drooping. Bark of the branches light-grey with small rough spots; fissures marked. Lower down slight fissures [p6.] of light brown color, unconnected. Nearer the base scaly in angular pieces, scales little prominent, fissures narrow mostly unconnected. Scales rough, of an ashy - grey.

- N. 2. Very frequent about here and a long distance back on our track. Shrub, 3 - 4' h. 1 - 2" diam., dense, spreading, but more erect than otherwise. Foliage, thick, bark grey, fissures narrow white, lower down the fissures of a yellowish hue. In the openings of the rougher bark which is connected, few scales like small dark prominent ridges.
- N. 3. Very frequent about here and for a long distance back.
Shrub or small tree, erect, 6 - 8' h. 2 - 3" diam. Foliage dropping. Bark of the younger branches light grey fissures – marks reticulate. Lower down fissures gradually more frequent, light brown, well defined between the longish dark-grey scales. Scales little prominent, adherent, lower down unconnected and getting gradually rougher towards the base. (Swamp, loose clayey soil, what is commonly termed "rotten ground")
- N. 4. Tree, 12 - 16' h. 4 - 5" diam. Bark of younger branches green, lower branches dark grey, gradually bursting in reticulate openings wider and longer than the connected parts of the bark. These are adherent, not rough, well defined, even, little prominent, whitish grey, darker on the edges;
[p7.] fissures light brown, lower down the bark collects in long thick prominent winding ridges, crossing each other reticulately over the deep, light brown fissures, many of the ridges quite loose and easily removable.
(Swamp Duroadoo, hard gray, clayey soil).

March 17. Waterless country, 70 miles from Duroadoo.

- N. 1. Isolated tree standing on a small dry watercourse. 10' h. 4" diam. pretty thick foliage. Bark of younger branches green, leaves dark grey. Trunk dark grey, rough.

March 22. Puria Creek.

- N. 1. The same tree apparently as that last noticed.
- N. 2. Small tree on the bank of the creek. 8 - 12' h. 3" diam. erect, not much spreading, foliage thick, bark light grey, solid, adherent, rather smooth with small scattered excisions, fissures quite superficial, small, light brown.
- N. 3. Box tree, bank of creek, similar to that on Duroadoo. Growth crooked, some trees of considerable size. Spreading with long strong arm like branches. Bark rough and scaly. Scales adherent, loose near the base. Younger branches smooth, whitish grey with longish darker spots.
- N. 5. Lower down the creek and apparently (by the shape of the wings of the fruit different from N. 2. Small tree, erect, not spreading, 10 - 12' h. 4" diam.
Bark light grey with small angular adherent scales, pretty even, between which dark, narrow, almost line fissures, lower down scales sometimes loose – exposing a soft – light – brown, even stratum. (Wings of the fruit shorter and broader than N. 2.)

March 23. Sandhills, SE from Camp at Puria Creek.

- N.1. Small shrub, 4' h. $\frac{1}{3}$ " diam., erect, thiny [thorny], bark brownish green, smooth with small excisions but without fissures.
- Nor 2. [p8.] Small tree frequent along the whole of our time from Gogirga. Erect, thiny [thorny], foliage and branches drooping, bark grey, fissured white. H 10' diam 2".

March 27. Koorliatto Creek.

Apparently a Capparis, the first plant of this kind since we left Melbourne. Frequent on the sandhills higher up the Darling, called by the colonists the native orange - tree. Frequent at Bulla. Here isolated near the bank of the creek. Shrub – like tree, 10' h. with several trunks 3 - 4" diam. Bark dark brownish-grey, solid, rough, scales long narrow ridges with deep furrows between them, foliage dense rich and of a striking lively green.

March 31. Koorliatto Creek.

Tree frequent on the banks of the creek, from 31 – 40' h. 8 - 10" diam. Erect, not much spreading, foliage thick, bark of younger branches blueish-green, smooth, larger branches and trunks rough, scales long of almost equal breadth, frequently connected by reticulate fibrous strings, not very prominent, some of them loose, fissures lively brown, narrow, linear and deep.

[sgnd.] Herman Beckler.

**Dr Muellers report on Dr Becklers notes on plants collected
during the Victorian Expedition under Robert O'Hara Burke.**

[p10.]

Melbourne bot. & zool.
Garden, 29. Aug.

Sir,

Having been requested by the Council of the Royal Society to give my opinion on the byefollowing notes on plant collected by Dr Beckler during the Victorian Expedition, I have the honour to inform you, that these notes refer to plants collected during Dr Becklers excursions whilst under orders of Mr. Wright. The observations being such as only on the living plants can be instituted, they are of value for being inserted to the systematic enumeration of all the plants of the expedition, which essay

I shall be happy to place before the Royal Society after Dr Becklers return, when the main portion of the plants will probably arrive and be available for examination.

[p11.] The species, to which the numbers refer in Dr Becklers list, all already identified, yet I think it preferable to retain these notes for the general memoir on Dr Becklers plants and beg leave to suggest, that for this purpose the notes may be returned to me.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

Ferd. Mueller.

The hon. Dr. Macadam MP.

Hon. Secy Royal Soc. Vict.