

SGAP Cairns

NEWSLETTER 211 JUNE 2021

Cairns SGAP climbs Earl Hill Track

Don Lawie

16 May 2021

Earl Hill is situated behind Trinity Beach, a northern suburb of Cairns. There are two walking tracks, one to the summit and the other to Half Moon Bay. We met for lunch and socialising at the large car park which, while having room for many vehicles, was bereft of facilities so we gathered, undeterred, in some cool shade. In the absence of our Treasurer and Secretary (one unwell, one working) we had no formal meeting but Immediate Past President Tony presented Certificates of Life Membership to Pauline and Don, who responded appropriately. There were insufficient offerings for a plant raffle; Val warned us at the AGM that the raffles were instrumental in holding our branch membership fees down, so a better effort is needed.

The Summit Climb is noted as steep, 2 km return. The lower part runs through a savannah-type forest with some typical trees - *Lophostemon suaveolens*, *Eucalyptus tereticornis*, (Blue or Red Gum) *Corymbia tessellaris*, (Carbeen) with an understory of shrubs and vines including *Morinda citrifolia* which is becoming commercially known as Noni Fruit.

Vegetation changes to rainforest with some altitude and a number of potentially large vines was noted e.g. *Mucuna gigantea* (Burny Bean) which



loops from tree to tree, obtaining a girth as thick as a man's thigh. Flowers resemble a clutch of humming birds. Another large vine was *Neosepicaea jucunda*, which winds its way into the canopy and drops small purple trumpet-shaped flowers to decorate the ground. The Native Monstera *Epipremnum pinnatum* climbs by putting out adventitious roots which clasp the host tree's branches and another climber, Fishtailed Lawyer Cane, *Calamus caryotoides* climbs by using its sharp hooks for support – also to delay passers-by into Waiting a While.

Three species of orchid were spotted - *Cymbidium madidum* which loves to sit in an exposed position on a tree, *Geodorum densiflorum*, Shepherd's Crook Orchid, which are about to

appear after their underground sojourn, and an interesting orchid *Apostasia wallichii*, a small ground plant which produces a posy of pale golden flowers. *Apostasia* possess the distinguishing traits of an orchid but are not quite an orchid: a conundrum in the world of Botany.

I bailed out and went back to ground level where Helen kindly drove us to the beach for a look then set us up in the carpark with comfy seats, coffee and ginger cake. There are advantages to becoming old and feeble!! The rest of the Gang also turned back after a while and Rob and Bianca came back after a few days and climbed a part of the track from the seaward end. I am indebted to Rob for making his plant list available – a wonderfully detailed resource.



Ixora timoriensis in bud



Litsea glutinosa



Adiantum philippense, near its southern limit.



Views of Trinity Park and beyond



Dunbaria punctata, a rarely recorded native pea.



The Coral Sea, framed by *Cycas media* and *Corymbia*.



Steps down to the beach at Trinity Park



Delicate pink flowers of Giant Sensitive Weed, *Mimosa diplotricha*.

Tropical Helmet Orchids

Photos by Matt McIntosh

The orchids are a group famous for their weird and intricate shapes. Amongst Australia's rich and diverse ground orchid flora, the helmet orchids (*Corymbas*) contain some of the strangest flowers. With their hooded dorsal sepal and heart shape leaf, these orchids are easy to identify, but tiny and difficult to find. The Wet Tropics is home to five species, and Matt has provided photos of four of these, below.



Corybas cerasinus



Corybas abellianus.



Corybas fimbriatus



Corybas barbareae

Corybas abellianus was described by Alick Dockrill in 1955, who "... named in honour of the first collectors. Mr. W. A. Abell has collected a number of new and rare orchids in several localities in Queensland has has generously donated many specimens to various herbaria."

Although common and widespread, *Corybas barbareae* was only described in 1988. David Jones named it in honour of his wife, writing "this species is named in honour of Barbara Elizabeth Jones, who has encouraged and assisted the orchid research of D.L. Jones for more than 20 years."

Corybas cerasinus is a rare plant restricted to the Wet Tropics bioregion. It was described by Bruce Gray and David Jones in 2001 from a specimen collected by Lewis Roberts. Previously it was mistaken for *C. neocaledonicus*.

Corybas fimbriatus is another widespread species in eastern Australia, named for its fringed labellum.

Earl Hill Species List

Compiled by Rob Jago and Stuart Worboys

Ferns

FAMILY	SPECIES	COMMON NAME
Aspleniaceae	<i>Asplenium nidus</i>	Birds Nest Fern
Blechnaceae	<i>Blechnum medium</i>	Rasp Fern
Davalliaceae	<i>Davallia denticulata</i>	
Dennstaedtiaceae	<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	Common Bracken Fern
Lygodiaceae	<i>Lygodium flexuosum</i>	Snake Fern
Polypodiaceae	<i>Drynaria rigidula</i>	Basket Fern
Pteridaceae	<i>Acrostichum speciosum</i>	Mangrove Fern
Pteridaceae	<i>Adiantum atroviride</i>	Common Maidenhair Fern
Pteridaceae	<i>Adiantum hispidulum var. hispidulum</i>	Rough Maidenhair Fern
Pteridaceae	<i>Adiantum philippense</i>	
Pteridaceae	<i>Cheilanthes tenuifolia</i>	Rock Fern
Pteridaceae	<i>Doryopteris concolor</i>	
Pteridaceae	<i>Pteris ensiformis</i>	Slender Bracken
Pteridaceae	* <i>Pteris ensiformis cv. victoriae</i>	Variegated Bracken
Thelypteridaceae	<i>Ambloventum terminans</i>	

Gymnosperms

FAMILY	SPECIES	COMMON NAME
Cycadaceae	<i>Cycas media subsp. banksii</i>	Cycad Palm

Flowering Plants - Basal Group

FAMILY	SPECIES	COMMON NAME
Annonaceae	<i>Cananga odorata</i>	Woolly Pine
Annonaceae	<i>Melodorum leichhardtii</i>	Acid Drop Vine
Annonaceae	<i>Polyalthia nitidissima</i>	Canary Beech
Aristolochiaceae	<i>Aristolochia acuminata</i>	Native Dutchman's Pipe
Lauraceae	<i>Beilschmiedia obtusifolia</i>	Blush Walnut
Lauraceae	<i>Cryptocarya clarksoniana</i>	Clarkson's Laurel
Lauraceae	<i>Cryptocarya exfoliata</i>	
Lauraceae	<i>Cryptocarya hypospodia</i>	Northern Laurel
Lauraceae	<i>Cryptocarya triplinervis var. riparia</i>	Brown Laurel
Lauraceae	<i>Endiandra hypolephra</i>	Rose Walnut
Lauraceae	<i>Litsea breviumbellata</i>	Bollywood
Lauraceae	<i>Litsea fawcettiana</i>	Bollywood
Lauraceae	<i>Litsea glutinosa</i>	Bollywood
Myristicaceae	<i>Myristica globosa subsp muelleri</i>	Nutmeg
Piperaceae	<i>Piper caninum Native Pepper</i>	
Piperaceae	<i>Piper hederaceum var. hederaceum</i>	Native Pepper

Flowering Plants - Monocots

FAMILY	SPECIES	COMMON NAME
Araceae	<i>Epipremnum pinnatum</i>	Native Monstera
Arecaceae	<i>Ptychosperma microcarpum</i>	New Guinea Cluster Palm
Arecaceae	<i>Calamus caryotoides</i>	Fishtail Lawyer Cane
Arecaceae	<i>Livistona muelleri</i>	Mueller's Fan Palm
Arecaceae	<i>Ptychosperma elegans</i>	Solitaire Palm
Colchicaceae	<i>Schelhammera multiflora</i>	
Cyperaceae	<i>Gahnia aspera</i>	
Cyperaceae	<i>Scleria mackaviensis</i>	
Flagellariaceae	<i>Flagellaria indica</i>	Supplejack
Hemerocallidaceae	<i>Dianella bambusifolia</i>	Flax Lily
Hemerocallidaceae	<i>Dianella caerulea var. assera</i>	
Hemerocallidaceae	<i>Dianella caerulea var. vannata</i>	Blue Flax Lily
Hemerocallidaceae	<i>Geitonoplesium cymosum</i>	Scrambling Lily
Laxmanniaceae	<i>Lomandra multiflora</i>	Many-flowered Matrush
Orchidaceae	<i>Apostasia wallichii</i>	Yellow Grass Orchid
Orchidaceae	<i>Cymbidium madidum</i>	Giant Boat-lip Orchid
Orchidaceae	<i>Geodorum densiflorum</i>	Pink Shepherds's Crook
Pandanaceae	<i>Pandanus cookii</i>	Cook's Pandan
Poaceae	* <i>Megathyrsus maximus var. maximus</i>	Guinea Grass
Poaceae	* <i>Melinis minutiflora</i>	Molasses Grass
Poaceae	* <i>*C3 Sporobolus jacquemontii</i>	American Rat's-tail Grass
Poaceae	* <i>Axonopus compressus</i>	Broad Leaf Carpet Grass
Poaceae	* <i>Axonopus fissifolius</i>	Carpet Grass
Poaceae	<i>Capillipedium spicigerum</i>	Scented Top Grass
Poaceae	<i>Cyrtococcum oxyphyllum</i>	
Poaceae	<i>Entolasia stricta</i>	Wiry Panic
Poaceae	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	Blady Grass
Poaceae	<i>Leptaspis banksii</i>	
Poaceae	<i>Oplismenus compositus</i>	
Poaceae	<i>Oplismenus imbecillis</i>	Little Basket Grass
Poaceae	<i>Oplismenus mollis</i>	
Poaceae	* <i>Paspalum paniculatum</i>	Russell River Grass
Poaceae	<i>Themeda triandra</i>	Kangaroo Grass
Smilaceae	<i>Smilax australis</i>	Sarsaparilla Vine
Taccaceae	<i>Tacca leontopetaloides</i>	Native Arrowroot
Zingiberaceae	<i>Alpinia caerulea</i>	Native Ginger
Zingiberaceae	<i>Meistera dallachyi</i>	Green Ginger

Flowering Plants - Eudicots

FAMILY	SPECIES	COMMON NAME
Acanthaceae	<i>Avicennia marina subsp. eucalyptifolia</i>	Grey Mangrove
Acanthaceae	<i>Pseuderanthemum variabile</i>	Pastel Flower
Amaranthaceae	<i>Alternanthera brasiliiana</i>	Brazilian Joyweed
Anacardiaceae	<i>Blepharocarya involucrigera</i>	Rose Butternut
Anacardiaceae	<i>Buchanania arborescens</i>	Satinwood; Jalarra

FAMILY	SPECIES	COMMON NAME
Anacardiaceae	<i>Euroschinus falcatus var. falcatus</i>	Blush Cudgerie
Anacardiaceae	<i>Rhus taitensis</i>	Sumac
Apocynaceae	<i>Alstonia muelleriana</i>	Hard Milkwood
Apocynaceae	<i>Alstonia scholaris</i>	Milky Pine; Jalnggan
Apocynaceae	<i>Alyxia spicata</i>	Chain Fruit
Apocynaceae	<i>Ichnocarpus frutescens</i>	
Apocynaceae	<i>Parsonia longipetiolata</i>	Green-leaved Silkpod
Apocynaceae	<i>Parsonia velutina</i>	Velvet Silkpod
Apocynaceae	<i>Tabernaemontana orientalis</i>	Eastern Gondola Bush
Apocynaceae	<i>Tabernaemontana pandacaqui</i>	Banana Bush
Apocynaceae	<i>Vincetoxicum polyanthum</i>	
Araliaceae	<i>Heptapleurum actinophyllum</i>	Umbrella Tree
Araliaceae	<i>Polyscias elegans</i>	Celerywood
Asteraceae	* <i>Ageratum conyzoides var. conyzoides</i>	Blue Top; Billygoat Weed
Asteraceae	* <i>Bidens pilosa</i>	Cobbler's Peg
Asteraceae	* <i>Cyanthillium cinereum var. cinereum</i>	Purple Fleabane
Asteraceae	* <i>Praxelis clematidea</i>	Praxelis
Asteraceae	* <i>Synedrella nodiflora</i>	Cinderella Weed
Bignoniaceae	<i>Deplanchea tetraphylla</i>	Golden Bouquet Tree
Bignoniaceae	<i>Neosepicaea jucunda</i>	Jucunda Vine
Burseraceae	<i>Canarium australianum var. australianum</i>	Scrub Turpentine; Mangobark
Cannabaceae	<i>Celtis paniculata</i>	Silky Celtis
Cannabaceae	<i>Trema orientalis</i>	Poison Peach Tree
Cannabaceae	<i>Trema tomentosa var. aspera</i>	Poison Peach Bush
Cardiopteridaceae	<i>Cardiopteris moluccana</i>	
Celastraceae	<i>Denhamia fasciculiflora</i>	
Clusiaceae	<i>Calophyllum sil</i>	Blush Touriga
Combretaceae	<i>Lumnitzera racemosa</i>	Black Mangrove
Combretaceae	<i>Terminalia muelleri</i>	Little Sea Almond
Combretaceae	<i>Terminalia sericocarpa</i>	Damson
Convolvulaceae	* <i>Ipomoea hederifolia</i>	Cardinal's Flower
Convolvulaceae	<i>Lepistemon urceolatus</i>	
Dilleniaceae	<i>Tetracera nordtiana var. nordtiana</i>	Fire Vine
Ebenaceae	<i>Diospyros compacta</i>	Australian Ebony
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Aleurites rockinghamensis</i>	Candlenut
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Claoxylon hillii Hill's</i>	Brittlewood
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Excoecaria agallocha</i>	Milky Mangrove
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Homalanthus novoguineensis</i>	Native Bleeding Heart
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Macaranga involucrata var. mallotoides</i>	Brown Macaranga
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Macaranga tanarius</i>	Blush Macaranga
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Mallotus nesophilus</i>	Yellow Ball Fruit
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Mallotus philippensis</i>	Red Kamala
Euphorbiaceae	<i>Mallotus polyadenos</i>	Kamala
Fabaceae	<i>Abrus precatorius</i>	Gidee Gidee
Fabaceae	<i>Acacia celsa</i>	Black Wattle
Fabaceae	<i>Acacia crassicarpa</i>	Brown Wattle
Fabaceae	<i>Acacia flavescens</i>	Red Wattle

FAMILY	SPECIES	COMMON NAME
Fabaceae	<i>Acacia polystachya</i>	Ellis Beach Wattle
Fabaceae	<i>Albizia procera</i>	Forest Siris
Fabaceae	* <i>Centrosema molle</i>	Centro
Fabaceae	* <i>Crotalaria goreensis</i>	Gambia Pea
Fabaceae	<i>Dalbergia candenatensis</i>	Dalbergia
Fabaceae	<i>Derris</i> sp. (<i>Daintree D. E. Boyland + 469</i>)	Cascading Pea
Fabaceae	<i>Dunbaria punctata</i>	
Fabaceae	<i>Falcataria toona</i>	Acacia Cedar; Mackay Cedar
Fabaceae	<i>Hanslia ormocarpoides</i>	
Fabaceae	* <i>Mimosa pudica</i> var. <i>unijuga</i>	Sensitive Plant
Fabaceae	<i>Mucuna gigantea</i>	Burny Bean
Fabaceae	* <i>Stylostanthes humilis</i>	Townsville Stylo
Lamiaceae	* <i>Hyptis capitata</i>	Knobweed
Lamiaceae	* <i>Mesosphaerum suaveolens</i>	Hyptis
Lamiaceae	<i>Clerodendrum longiflorum</i> var. <i>glabrum</i>	Witches Tongues
Lamiaceae	<i>Glossocarya hemiderma</i>	
Lecythidaceae	<i>Planchonia careya</i>	Cocky Apple
Loranthaceae	<i>Amyema sanguinea</i> var. <i>sanguinea</i>	
Lythraceae	<i>Sonneratia alba</i>	Pornupan Mangrove
Malvaceae	<i>Triumfetta rhomboidea</i>	Chinese Burr
Malvaceae	* <i>Sida rhombifolia</i>	Common Sida
Malvaceae	* <i>Urena lobata</i>	Urena Burr
Malvaceae	<i>Argyrodendron polyandrum</i>	Brown Tulip Oak
Malvaceae	<i>Heritiera littoralis</i>	Looking Glass Mangrove
Malvaceae	<i>Hibiscus tiliaceus</i>	Cottonwood
Malvaceae	<i>Sterculia quadrifida</i>	Peanut tree
Malvaceae	<i>Trichospermum pleiostigma</i>	Whitfield Ash
Meliaceae	<i>Dysoxylum latifolium</i>	Frankland Islands Mahogany
Meliaceae	<i>Melia azedarach</i>	White Cedar
Menispermaceae	<i>Stephania japonica</i> var. <i>japonica</i>	
Moraceae	<i>Ficus hispida</i>	Hairy Fig: Boombil
Moraceae	<i>Ficus microcarpa</i>	Small-fruited Fig
Moraceae	<i>Ficus opposita</i>	Sandpaper Fig
Moraceae	<i>Ficus variegata</i> var. <i>variegata</i>	Variegated Cluster Fig
Myrtaceae	<i>Corymbia clarksoniana</i>	Clarkson's Bloodwood
Myrtaceae	<i>Corymbia tessellaris</i>	Moreton Bay Ash; Carbeen
Myrtaceae	<i>Corymbia torelliana</i>	Cadaghi
Myrtaceae	<i>Eucalyptus leptophleba</i>	Red Molloy Box
Myrtaceae	<i>Eucalyptus platyphylla</i>	Poplar Gum
Myrtaceae	<i>Eucalyptus portuensis</i>	Northern White Mahogany
Myrtaceae	<i>Eucalyptus tereticornis</i>	Forest Red Gum; Blue Gum
Myrtaceae	<i>Lophostemon suaveolens</i>	Swamp Mahogany
Myrtaceae	<i>Melaleuca dealbata</i>	Red Tea Tree
Myrtaceae	<i>Melaleuca leucadendra</i>	Tea Tree
Oleaceae	<i>Chionanthus ramiflora</i>	Native Olive
Oleaceae	<i>Jasminum didymum</i> subsp. <i>didymum</i>	Native Jasmine
Oleaceae	<i>Jasminum simplicifolium</i> subsp. <i>australiense</i>	Native Jasmine

FAMILY	SPECIES	COMMON NAME
Oxalidaceae	<i>Oxalis corniculata</i>	Creeping Oxalis
Passifloraceae	* <i>Passiflora edulis</i>	Passion Fruit
Passifloraceae	* <i>Passiflora pallida</i>	Corky Passion Flower
Phyllanthaceae	<i>Antidesma bunius</i>	Herbert river Cherry
Phyllanthaceae	<i>Breynia cernua</i>	Fart Tree
Phyllanthaceae	<i>Glochidion harveyanum var. harveyanum</i>	Harvey's Buttonwood
Phyllanthaceae	<i>Glochidion philippicum</i>	Buttonwood
Phyllanthaceae	<i>Phyllanthus cuscutiflorus</i>	Pink Phyllanthus
Pittosporaceae	<i>Pittosporum tinifolium</i>	Rusty Pittosporum
Primulaceae	<i>Maesa haplobotrys</i>	
Rhamnaceae	<i>Alphitonia excelsa</i>	Red Ash
Rhamnaceae	<i>Alphitonia petriei</i>	Pink Ash
Rhamnaceae	<i>Emmenosperma cunninghamii</i>	Cunningham's Bonewood
Rhamnaceae	<i>Rhamnella vitiensis</i>	
Rhizophoraceae	<i>Bruguiera gymnorhiza</i>	Large-fruited Orange Mangrove
Rhizophoraceae	<i>Carallia brachiata</i>	Corky Bark
Rubiaceae	<i>Aidia racemosa</i>	Archer Cherry
Rubiaceae	<i>Atractocarpus fitzalanii subsp. fitzalanii</i>	Brown Gardenia
Rubiaceae	<i>Coelospermum reticulatum</i>	
Rubiaceae	<i>Cyclophyllum multiflorum</i>	
Rubiaceae	<i>Ixora timorensis</i>	Native Ixora
Rubiaceae	<i>Morinda citrifolia</i>	Rotten Cheesefruit
Rubiaceae	<i>Psychotria loniceroidea</i>	Hairy Psychotria
Rubiaceae	<i>Tarenna dallachiana subsp. dallachiana</i>	Tree Ixora
Rubiaceae	<i>V Myrmecodia beccarii</i>	Ant Plant
Rutaceae	<i>Acronychia imperforata</i>	Logan Apple
Rutaceae	<i>Acronychia laevis</i>	Hard Aspen
Rutaceae	<i>Flindersia ifflaiana</i>	Cairns Hickory Ash
Rutaceae	<i>Melicope elleryana</i>	Evodia
Rutaceae	<i>Micromelum minutum</i>	Lime Berry
Rutaceae	* <i>Murraya paniculata cv. "Exotica"</i>	Mock Orange
Salicaceae	<i>Scolopia braunii</i>	Flintwood
Sapindaceae	<i>Cupaniopsis foveolata</i>	White Tamarind
Sapindaceae	<i>Elattostachys microcarpa</i>	Scrub Tamarind
Sapindaceae	<i>Ganophyllum falcatum</i>	Daintree Hickory
Sapindaceae	<i>Guioa acutifolia</i>	Glossy Tamarind
Sapindaceae	<i>Jagera pseudorhus var. pseudorhus</i>	Foambark
Sapindaceae	<i>Mischocarpus exangulatus</i>	Rex Tokoonja
Sapindaceae	<i>Synima cordierorum</i>	Synima
Sapindaceae	<i>Toechima daemelianum</i>	Cape Tamarind
Sapotaceae	<i>Planchonella chartacea</i>	Dugulla
Simaroubaceae	<i>Brucea javanica</i>	Brucea
Solanaceae	* <i>Capsicum annuum var. glabriusculum</i>	Bird's Eye Chilli
Solanaceae	* <i>Solanum seaforthianum</i>	Brazilian Nightshade
Solanaceae	* <i>Solanum torvum</i>	Devil's Fig
Solanaceae	<i>Solanum intonsum</i>	
Stemonuraceae	<i>Gomphandra australiana</i>	Buff Beech

FAMILY	SPECIES	COMMON NAME
Urticaceae	<i>Dendrocnide moroides</i>	Gympie Gympie Stinger
Verbenaceae	* <i>Stachytarpheta cayennensis</i>	Snakeweed
Verbenaceae	* <i>Lantana camara</i>	Lantana
Vitaceae	<i>Ampelocissus acetosa</i>	Native Grape
Vitaceae	<i>Cissus hastata</i>	Native Grape
Vitaceae	<i>Cissus oblonga</i>	Smooth Water Vine

What's Happening...

Cairns

Sunday 20th June. Excursion to Bramston Beach.

Meet 12 noon at Bramston Beach campground. Travel south of Cairns to Mirriwinni. As you leave Mirriwinni, turn left off the highway towards Bramston Beach. Follow the road east to Bramston Beach village. A sharp right turn here takes you 250 m down to the campground toilets (meet here). A little further down is the cafe, which does excellent takeaway food.

Tablelands

Meetings on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm, Tolga CWA Hall. Excursions the following Sunday.

Excursion officer: Peter Radke, 0418 719 748.

Townsville

Wednesday 9th June. Meeting of Native Plants Queensland - Townsville Branch at Oonoonba Community Hall, Shannon Street Oonoonba.

Friday 18th - Saturday 19th June. Excursion to the Burra Range, White Mountains National Park. Leave Charters Towers at about 7.30 a.m. to start from the access road by the toilet block at the White Mountains NP at 9 a.m. and proceed slowly to the turn off for Saw Pit Gully.

SGAP Cairns Branch 2020-2021 Committee

President: Don Lawie

Vice-President: Patsy Penny

Secretary: Matt McIntosh (secretary@sgapcianrs.org.au)

Treasurer: Val Carnie

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