

the National Parks Act, under which offenders can be fined up to \$2500 and imprisoned for three months.

Had the Department of Conservation been able to prove the plants were destined for sale and commercial gain, the judge said that she would have had no hesitation in sending the men to jail.

*Information has been taken from the New Zealand Department of Conservation media release at [www.doc.govt.nz/index.html](http://www.doc.govt.nz/index.html). Daily newspapers in New Zealand and Czechoslovakia gave the case considerable coverage.*

### Bumble bees: a cause for concern?

*The following news item was prompted by the posting to the Society of Australian Systematic Biologists site of an appeal by Dr Anne Dollin of the Australian Native Bee Research Centre and a recent visit by the Editors to Tasmania.*

Horticulturists have initiated an application to have the European bumblebee, *Bombus terrestris*, added to Australia's list of species suitable for live import (Web Ref. 1).

As part of the process the applicant has to write a report assessing the potential impact of importing live bumblebees for commercial purposes. The draft Terms of Reference for this report is currently posted on the Department of Environment and Heritage webpage. The public have been invited to email comments to the address: [wsm@deh.gov.au](mailto:wsm@deh.gov.au) (closing date for comments was Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April). The New South Wales Government already lists the introduction of this bumblebee as a Key

Threatening Process (Web Ref. 2) and Victoria has listed it as a Potentially Threatening Process. Previous applications to import the bee have been made and rejected, but the bee was introduced illegally into Tasmania in 1992.

The Australian Native Bee Research Centre (a privately funded organisation based in the lower Blue Mountains and publisher of Aussie Bee Online) are asking concerned parties to send their comments on the issue to the Department of the Environment and Heritage. More information and suggested text can be found on their website (Web Ref. 3).

Counter arguments of the horticulturists can be seen in a copy of the very thorough, but unsuccessful, application to AQIS to import bumble bees of 1996 (Web Ref. 4).

An account of the work being done to determine the influence of this bee in Tasmania since 1992 and a map of its spread in that time is on the Tasmanian Museum & Art Gallery web site (Web Ref. 5). Botanical visitors to Tasmania may be interested in participating in the survey on bumble bees (location, numbers, plants visited, etc.) that is being conducted through this web site.

#### References

Web Ref. 1. [www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use/publicnotices/index.html](http://www.deh.gov.au/biodiversity/trade-use/publicnotices/index.html)

Web Ref. 2. [www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/npws.nsf/Content/Bombus\\_terrestris\\_ktp\\_declaration](http://www.nationalparks.nsw.gov.au/npws.nsf/Content/Bombus_terrestris_ktp_declaration)

Web Ref. 3. [www.zeta.org.au/~anbr/bumblebees-13apr04.html](http://www.zeta.org.au/~anbr/bumblebees-13apr04.html)

Web Ref. 4. [www.tmag.tas.gov.au/workshop/append2.html](http://www.tmag.tas.gov.au/workshop/append2.html)

Web Ref. 5. [www.tmag.tas.gov.au/bumblebees/bee\\_survey.htm](http://www.tmag.tas.gov.au/bumblebees/bee_survey.htm)

## Reviews

### Ecology and vegetation of Western Australia - an account of 100 years ago

Review by Jürgen Kellermann

School of Botany, The University of Melbourne, VIC 3010

*L. Diels (2003) **The Plant Life of Western Australia south of the Tropics**. English translation by B.J. Grieve, B.B. Lamont & E.O. Hellmuth of the original 1906 German edition. Edited by Neil Gibson. CD-ROM v 1.02. Woodvale: Published by the editor. Price: approx. A\$ 5.00 (for copying & postage).*

*The CD-ROM is available from the editor, Dr. Neil Gibson, CALM Wildlife Research Centre, email: [neilg@calm.wa.gov.au](mailto:neilg@calm.wa.gov.au), ph: (08) 9405 5100, fax: (08) 9306 1641*

The German botanists Ludwig Diels and Ernst Pritzel, travelled in south-western Western

Australia from October 1900 to December 1901. They ventured to Australia not only to collect plants, but their main interest was to examine the ecology and vegetation of the state. Their expedition was very well planned, so that Diels and Pritzel were able to visit many places several times to document the plant life during different times of the year. They travelled as far north as Carnarvon; their inland-trips led them as far as Cue, Menzies and Kalgoorlie. The yield of their industrious collecting activities in Western Australia was a herbarium of over 5700 numbers (Diels 4700, Pritzel 1016).

The taxonomic results of the expedition were published jointly in *Fragmenta phytographiae Australiae occidentalis* (Diels & Pritzel 1904-1905), in which they described their collections, among them 235 new species. Diels published the ecological results a year later in his *Die Pflanzenwelt von West-Australien südlich des Wendekreises* (Diels 1906). The book "was a landmark work in every way, publishing new information on the flora, descriptions of the vegetation that were entirely new and a small coloured vegetation map of Australia" (Beard 2001b). Indeed, this map was the first vegetation map to be published of the continent; combined with the Introduction of the book, they form one of the first accounts of the vegetation of Australia as a whole.

The remaining chapters of the book deal with Western Australia. Starting with an account of the botanical exploration of extra-tropical Western Australia, the book proceeds to an outline of the physical geography and climate of the region. This is followed by two detailed chapters describing the vegetation of the South-West and Eremaean Provinces. The final chapter "established Diels' famous biogeographical classification of Western Australia into two Botanical Provinces, subdivided into Botanical Districts" (Beard 2001a). This is the starting point for all further vegetation studies in the state.

The publication of this classic work in English translation 97 years after its first release in Germany is quite remarkable. To quote from the Editor's Note, this "involved a number of people who recognized the need to provide an accessible version of the first major work on the ecology, vegetation and biogeography of Western Australian plants to an Australian audience" (p. 5). In fact, a translation was started between 1914 and 1920 by W. Dakin, then Head of the Department of Botany at the University of Western Australia. Over the years only small additions were made to this uncompleted draft,

until B.J. Grieve resumed the translation, after his appointment as Head of Department. He finished the manuscript in 1950.

Typescripts of this translation were used at the Botany Department for many years; copies of Dakin's translation (Diels 1920-1927) can also be found at some Australian herbaria (e.g. PERTH, CANB). However, this English edition of Diels' book remained inaccessible to most people. A previous attempt to publish it failed because it was not possible to contact the original publisher, or its successor in West Germany. In 1981 B.B. Lamont was able to track down the copyright holder of the book, and he obtained permission to translate the book. He had begun to translate the work independently from Grieve, and once Lamont heard of the existence of the Botany Department's manuscript, he agreed to collaborate with Grieve, and later with E.O. Hellmuth, to edit the translation. Now, over twenty years later, we can finally read the completed work.

The translation comes as a 100 Mb PDF document on CD-ROM. The main part contains the text including scans of all black and white photographic plates and woodcuts in the text. The vegetation map is reproduced in colour.

This is followed by an appendix containing all current names (as of 2002) for the plant species mentioned in the original text (although the nomenclature for some eastern taxa may not be fully up-to-date; p. 337). Many names have changed during the last century and this list is essential for the proper understanding of the text. Anyone who is fortunate enough to have a copy of the original book should print out this list and insert it in their copy. The translations of the captions of the plates and figures follow in two appendices (it would have been preferable if these translated captions were placed directly beneath the figures and not in the appendix). Finally there is also a series of photographs compiled by Lamont & Grieve in 1984. They "tried to relocate and re-photograph" (p. 368) the sites of the plates from Diels' book, twelve of which are presented here, paired with the original picture. It is interesting to see the change in the vegetation after 82 years.

The layout and presentation of the book is very good. It is ready to print, so if you prefer a hardcopy you can print out the 381 pages of the document. However one advantage of reading it at the computer is the possibility to search for words or species names in the full text.

The actual translation is accurate and reads well. It is not a word-for-word conversion of the

German text, but sometimes quite independently re-written. Fortunately, seemingly endless German sentences are often translated as two or three English clauses. This is an improvement to the translation of Dakin (Diels 1920-1927), which clings too much to the original text. At times, however, Grieve, Lamont & Hellmuth seem to have left out - intentionally or un-intentionally - one or two sentences from the original (e.g. the first two sentences of the third paragraph on page 1 of the 1906 edition). This does not necessarily change the sense or meaning of a paragraph, but it omits some additional information or comments. In a few places it also seems as if the translators tried to soften Diels' opinion or critique, e.g. when he describes Spencer Moore's work on the flora of Western Australia as original but "not very deep" (p. 62 of the original). This comment does not appear in the translation at all (p. 56).

No translation can reproduce the original. It is a delight to read Diels' text in original, with his at times even poetical language. However, in case your German is getting a bit rusty, this CD-ROM is an alternative for you to read one of the most important contributions to Australian botany and ecology. I strongly recommend to buy it, your \$5 will be well invested. Of course the text from 1906 is outdated in some respects, but if you keep this in mind you will find the book very

interesting. John Beard's comments (Beard 2001b) help with the interpretation of the vegetation map, and his more recent studies on the biogeography and vegetation of Western Australia (Beard 1980; Beard 1990) are essential to fully appreciate Diels' work and to understand the advancement of the field since 1906.

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## Translation of lecture by Carl Wilhelmi on early South Australia

Robyn Barker

State Herbarium of South Australia

The availability of an English translation of Diels's 1906 work on Western Australian vegetation (see p. 26) reminds me of a recent translation of an early German description of South Australian vegetation.

The lecture given to the Melbourne German Club by Carl Wilhelmi on 14<sup>th</sup> September 1857 "My Journeys in South Australia 1848-1851" has been translated by Thomas A. Darragh, Curator emeritus of Museum Victoria (Darragh 2003). Wilhelmi's lecture was later published in the local German newspaper *Der Kosmopolit*, over three issues (18<sup>th</sup> Sep 1857, p. 343; 22<sup>nd</sup> Sep, p. 347; 25<sup>th</sup> Sep, p. 351).

The account covers three journeys, one made to the Macclesfield area in March 1849, a week after his arrival in South Australia, a second in October 1849 to the Wellington region on the Murray and a third in the summer months of 1850/1 to Tanunda and Moorunde from whence he moved downstream along the Murray The

return on this third journey was again through Wellington, but visits were also made to Goolwa and Hindmarsh Island. *Acacia wilhelmiana* F.Muell. was collected during this third journey.

Darragh provides a brief background to Wilhelmi but defers to Kraehenbuehl's (1990) treatment of his life.

The translation can be found in the *Journal of the Friends of the Lutheran Archives*, copies of which can be obtained from the Friends of the Lutheran Archives Inc., 27 Fourth Street, Bowden, S.A. 5007 for \$11 per issue.

### References

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