



Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club Inc.

BULLETIN

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The Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club encourages the study of natural history and supports conservation. People of any age and background are welcome as members.

For further information, visit our website <http://www.tasfieldnats.org.au>; write to GPO Box 68, Hobart, 7001; or phone our president, Janet Fenton, on (03) 6239 6443.

Programme

General Meetings start at 7:45pm on the first Thursday of the month, in the Life Science Building at the University of Tasmania. Outings are usually held the following weekend, meeting outside the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery entrance in Macquarie Street. Bring lunch and all-weather outdoor gear.

If you are planning to attend an outing but have not been to the prior meeting, please check details. Phone Janet Fenton (03) 6239 6443 as unforeseen changes sometimes occur.

Thu, 3 May	Meeting 7.45pm in Life Sciences building, University of Tas. Guest speaker Alistair Richardson will speak on <i>Burrowing Crayfish</i> . Alistair is Associate Professor & Deputy Head of the School of Biology at the University of Tasmania.
Sun, 6 May	Excursion to Ian Pickin's <i>Braeside Nursery</i> and a rainforest walk near Lachlan. Rendezvous at 9:00am outside the Tas Museum in Macquarie St, Hobart. We will then travel via New Norfolk to meet Ian in the car-park at Lachlan shop at 10:15am.
Thu, 7 Jun	Meeting 7.45pm in Life Sciences building, University of Tas. Our guest from the <i>Fox Task Force</i> will be updating us on the fox situation in Tasmania.
Sat, 9 Jun	Excursion - details to yet to be finalised.
Thu, 5 Jul	Meeting 7.45pm in Life Sciences building, University of Tas. Our guest speaker Rodney Dilan's topic is <i>Foraging and Eating in the Bush</i> .

Excursion to Arthur Clarke's Francistown property, 4 Feb 2007

Report by Anne Thwaites

A magic day weatherwise, with clear blue sky and near-perfect Huon River reflections on the drive down the channel and into Port Esperance heralded our visit to Arthur Clarke's awe-inspiring property, for this wonderful excursion.

After morning tea next to the raspberry bushes and under a kiwi fruit canopy, twenty members and Queensland Naturalist Club guests accompanied Arthur and his daughter Petreanna up Bates Creek gully. Within metres we were in a captivating environment, twisting, turning over under and around fallen trunks of a mixed forest of tree ferns, eucalypt and musk. As our eyes darted from side to side in enchantment, we entered a sassafras section with lyrebird diggings, Triassic sandstone cliffs with little grottos and overhanging shelves sheltering glow-worms with threads and egg sacs of the Tasmanian Cave Spider *Hickmania troglodytes*. Some of us were able to see by torchlight an adult female. Many of their webs were seen slung horizontally across spaces between logs or sandstone overhangs. Dark nooks among the logs also provide habitat for the endangered 'Cave Cricket' *Micropathus kiernani*. Fungi protruded from often all sides of wet fallen logs as well as in the beautiful rich soil at our feet. A special treat was to see a lyrebird's basin-

shaped nest made of fine dry twigs. An observant member at the rear of the party, Kevin, spotted a second nest.

After a steep climb we arrived on a flattish 1940s box-mill sawdust heap for a short well earned lunch stop. Across a cliff-top, we then arrived in an area of giant tree ferns, some with filmy fern covered trunks – believed to be over 350 years old. Ahead, another sandstone cliff contained a small pool like a tiny wishing well, in which Arthur had recently found two yet to be described aquatic species, a Phreatoicid (aquatic isopod) and an aquatic amphipod. These are currently under University research.

Half of the group keenly climbed and slid further up the gully and discovered an old shoe line from the 1880s logging era. Here in our pathway were three lidless trap-door spider holes, a huge diameter stump and a large decayed log with glow-worm threads into which Arthur disappeared with a torch. He came out completely ‘stoked’!

Returning down via the tree-fern ‘Valley of the Giants’ to the rest of the group, we finally returned high along the eastern side of Bates Creek on another old logging track past two old hut sites, another shoe line and more sandstone cliffs with curious holes to end up near Arthur’s entrance gate at 4:30pm.

Birdwatching was difficult given the large group, but various calls were identified during the day, including Satin Flycatcher, Golden Whistler, Pink Robin, Thornbill and Lyrebird.

After cups of tea and a group photo we wished our Queensland companions farewell. An amazing day with Arthur! Many thanks.

Addendum by Arthur:

The bulldozers, earth moving machinery, excavators and chainsaws moved in on Monday, so it is no longer so peaceful and quiet at the end of the valley!

Plant List by Bert Sheppard:

Western approach to gully:

Acacia dealbata (Silver Wattle); *A. melanoxylon* (Blackwood); *Eucalyptus obliqua* (Stringybark); *E. regnans* (Swamp gum); *Atherosperma moschatum* (Sassafras); *Bedfordia salicina* (Basket leaf); *Olearia argophylla* (Musk); *Blechnum* sp. (Hard water fern).

In the gully:

Dicksonia Antarctica (Tree fern); *Zieria arborescens* (Stinkwood); *Tasmannia lanceolata* (Mountain Pepper); *Nothofagus cunninghamii* (Myrtle).

Eastern side of gully:

Gaultheria hispidula (Snowberry); *Dianella tasmanica* (Blue Flax Lily); *Goodinia ovata* (Badger Bush); *Bursaria spinosa* (Prickly Box); *Cassinia aculeata* (Dolly Bush).

Invertebrates, by Kevin Bonham:

Snail list for Francistown:

Caryodes dufresnii; *Cystopelta bicolor*; *Trocholaoma parvissima*; *Paralaoma halli*; *Pernagera kingstonensis*; *Allocharopa legrandi*; *Prolesophanta* sp. "Francistown"; *Tasmaphena sinclairi* (a new record for Francistown).

Other invertebrates included a very large weevil *Poropterus satyrus*, feeding on a very decayed mushroom. I also found the beautiful Mt Mangana Stag Beetle (*Lissotes menalcas*), which is listed on the Threatened Species List (in my view, incorrectly - it's not that rare, just cryptic.). Very unusually, one female was standing still on open ground instead of inside a rotten log as normal. Searches inside rotten logs produced no further *L. menalcas*, just a rather large velvet worm!

Fungi list, compiled by Genevieve Gates from excursion photos:

Discinella terrestris; *Serpula* sp; *Phylloporus* sp; *Stropharia formosa*; *Amanita* sp (grey-brown, several species have this colour); *Psathyrella* sp (I think).

Excursion to Chauncy Vale, 3 March 2007

Report by Robin Cribbes,

11 members met in the parking area at Chauncy Vale on March 3, and as the weather was fine & warm it was perfect for our excursion. Chauncy Vale is a wildlife sanctuary, bequeathed to the local council by Anton Chauncy in 1988. It is visited by bushwalkers, birdwatchers and picnicking family groups.

Before we had even started our walk Kevin and Geoff found Dung beetles which were inspected closely and much photographed. The excursion was to **Guvy's Lagoon** along well marked paths, which were bordered by fields of Poa grass. Soon into the walk we surprised 2 Bennett's wallabies, which was a cheery sight.

We stopped for morning tea at Eve's Bath, which was a fascinating rock formation shaped like a hip bath, in the middle of the stream. It was a pleasure to see the clear fast flowing water after the recent rains.

Anna and Janet saw a Bassian (ground) Thrush, and Qug and Geoff saw a Wedge-tailed Eagle being harassed by 2 birds, probably Ravens or Currawongs.

Continuing our walk we were disturbed to see a huge area of California Thistle. An attempt had been made to hand clear it, as evidenced by 4 large garbage bags full of the stuff, left to bake in the sun — a seemingly hopeless task!

We forded three streams, some getting wetter than others! As we moved up the hill we saw very tall straight Eucalypts, typical of wet forest, which was interesting as the understory was typical dry Sclerophyll. Geoff found a number of small Skinks on a fallen log, and as he was photographing them we heard a shout from Anna who had almost trodden on a Tiger snake!! It was more frightened than Anna and shot off into the bush much to the relief of all.

We arrived at Guvy's Lagoon where we stopped for lunch. Although the water level was low Geoff found many fresh water leeches up to 60mm long, looking like ribbons in the water. Some of the group left and the rest joined John and Gilbert at the Lookout, where there was a lovely rustic seat for resting weary bones.

The group returned via the Loop track, where this time it was Janet who almost trod on another snake — a beautiful Copperhead.

John Reid's bird list:

Fantailed Cuckoo; Grey Shrike Thrush; Yellow-throated Honey-eater; male Flame Robin; Dusky Robin; Scarlet robin (immature male); Golden Whistler; Black-headed Honey-eater; Grey Fantail; Forest Raven; Kookaburra (heard); Common Bronzewing Pigeon (heard); Black Currawong

Kevin Bonham reports:

Land snails: On our last trip to Chauncy Vale in December 2001 I recorded eight species. This time I recorded nine including four I had not seen there last time (indicated by *): *Caryodes dufresnii**, *Tasmaphena ruga**, *Paralaoma caputspinulae*, *P. halli**, *P. mucoides**, *Laomavix collisi*, *Planilaoma luckmanii*, *Elsothera ricei*, *Allocharopa* sp. "Christ College". The list of 12 species I have now has 11 in common with the 13 I've recorded from nearby Barren Rock, Dysart.

Freshwater snail in lagoon: *Gyraulus meridionalis*

Orchid: *Eriochilus cucullatus*

Plant List for Chauncy Vale excursion to Guvy's Lagoon

Valley floor – along creek:

<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	<i>Beyeria viscosa</i>	<i>Oxalis perennans</i>
<i>Acacia mearnsii</i>	<i>Microsorium diversifolium</i>	<i>Olearia archeri</i>
<i>Pomaderris apetala</i>	(Kangaroo fern)	<i>Asplenium</i> sp. (Necklace fern)
<i>Poa</i> spp.	<i>Dianella tasmanica</i>	<i>Stackhousia monogyna</i>
<i>Asterotrichion discolour</i>	<i>Leptospermum lanigerum</i>	<i>Lomandra longifolia</i>
<i>Gahnia</i> spp.	<i>Carex apressa</i>	<i>Pteridium esculentum</i> (Bracken)
<i>Eucalyptus viminalis</i>	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	<i>Allocasuarina</i>
Californian thistle	<i>Eucalyptus oblique</i>	<i>Wahlenbergia</i> sp. (fl)
<i>Notolaea ligustrina</i>	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	
<i>Bursaria spinosa</i>	<i>Acacia verticillata</i>	

Up side gully (*E. obliqua* with open dry sclerophyll vegetation under):

<i>Indigofera australis</i>	<i>Astroloma humifusum</i>	<i>Olearia (lirata ?)</i>
<i>Pultenaea juniperina</i>	<i>Cyathodes glauca</i>	<i>Bossiaea riparia</i>
<i>Exocarpos cupressiformis</i>	<i>Lissanthe strigosa</i>	<i>Cassytha pubescens</i>
<i>Dichondra repens</i>	<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	<i>Dianella revoluta</i>

At look-out:

<i>Eriochilus</i> spp.	<i>Eucalyptus amygdalina</i>
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Fungi List, by Genevieve Gates, from photos:

Agaricus sp. (probably); *Limacella* sp. (probably); *Coprinus aff. plicatilis*; *Bisporella citrina*; *Laccaria* sp.; *Fuligo septica*.

Easter Camp 2007 - Southport

Compiled by Janet Fenton from notes by participants.

Friday 6Apr- Duckhole Lake:

Twenty-three naturalists set out to visit Duckhole Lake, situated in a flat forested valley below Adamsons Peak. An old timber tramway winds through sassafras and leatherwood dominated wet forest to the lake, and sections of this as well as an old logging 'shoe' could be seen along the way. Lyrebird scratchings and droppings were plentiful and a group attractive orange finger fungus *Clavia corallinosacea* caught our eyes. We met errant club mycologists Genevieve and David heading homewards, having recorded 80 species of fungi for the day along the track to Duckhole.

We were surprised at the huge size of *Lomatia polymorpha*, trees with trunks 40cm diameter, and we admired the red and white berries of *Aristotelia pedunculata* (heart berry), white *Gaultheria hispida* (snow berries) and a few *Prionotes* still in flower. and also noted *Pseudopanax gunnii* (forest fern bush) three quarters of the way along the track to the lake.

Noted eggs (probably lacewing) suspended beneath a leatherwood leaf.

In the lake we netted Calanoid copepods, a Velid water skater, Amphipods and Trichopteran larvae. A spider (Tetragnathidae) was suspended between twigs on the edge of the lake.

While hunting for snails, Kevin uncovered a handsome black Carabid beetle (*Persecoma*) under a log.

At the car-park, Michael was happy when he netted a pygmy grasshopper *Tetrix collina* that he had been telling us about in a talk on the previous evening, as well as a swamp cricket *Bobilla*, probably *tasmani*.

An echidna was spotted on the side of the road near the corner of Creekton Road and Davey Road.

At the end of the day we drove to Southport and settled in to the Stephen Hay Memorial Park, a camping facility owned by Hutchins School. We were soon cooking in the well appointed kitchen. Children (and adults) livened up the games room, and we settled comfortably by the wood fire.

Saturday 7Apr - Ida Bay - Deephole - Southport Bluff Beach:

Our numbers fluctuated somewhat during the weekend as people came and went, but we all enjoyed the lively company of five small children in our midst for the three days. Our Saturday excursion began with a trip to Deep Hole on the Ida Bay Railway. Several White-bellied Sea Eagles were 'working' the area and we wondered if they were on the lookout for small creatures disturbed by the passing train.

We disembarked at Deephole, the site of a TFNC camp back in 1911, when 60 naturalists arrived by the steamer SS *Togo* and the steam yacht *Edina* to camp under canvas. Unlike us, however, they had three cooks to do the catering! In those days the Catamaran coalmines and sawmills were operating, and there was a substantial jetty for loading vessels at Deephole. Our adventurous predecessors visited the coalmine, sawmills, the Ida Bay caves, and walked out to George III monument at Southport Bluff. Southport Bluff Beach is where our party headed for the day. Today the headland where the monument stands is fenced off to protect the rare *Epacris stuartii* which grows only there and is vulnerable to *Phytophthora* root rot. We had a rather distant view of the block-shaped monument which was erected in memory of the many who perished on the convict ship George III which struck a submerged rock 1.5km off Lagoon Beach, in 1835.

The track to Southport Bluff meandered through scrub and heathland. At the junction of the tracks to Southport Lagoon and the Bluff, Kevin identified an orchid *Pterostylis pedoglossa*. Other observations along the route included *Lobelia gibbosa* in flower, Brown Froglet *Crinia signifera*, Metallic Skink *Niveoscincus metallicus*, Brown Goshawk, Golden Whistler, and in heathland near Southport Bluff, the Flower spider, *Diaea rosea*. In 1911 Rodway recorded *Campynema*, a small lily from the heathland. He wrote 'botanists should rave over it, for it seems so isolated'. Its closest relatives are in New Caledonia. The plant is usually found in the west of the state in wet peaty sites and alpine areas.

Southport Bluff Beach was reasonably sheltered for lunch. We watched a flock of Short-tailed Shearwaters fly past, and on the beach saw a sea urchin, probably *Holopneustes inflatus*, a fluffy caterpillar that had strayed into the wrong place, and a rove beetle (Staphylinidae).

Some of us visited Southport Lagoon. Observations from here included Sooty Oystercatchers, Black Swans, White-bellied Sea Eagle and the remains of a cow! A group of 17 plovers or stints (not Hooded Plover, we were unable to determine sp.) were feeding on the sand flats.

Sunday 8Apr - Roaring Beach and beyond:

After a visit from the Easter Bunny, (or was it one of those Pademelons frequenting the lawn around the camp along with the rabbits?) we explored the local environs. Around camp Mike noticed a Brown goshawk, *Accipiter fasciatus*. Kevin found a snail *Paraloma halli* and a Jewel beetle *Melobasis purpurascens*. Flame robin, *Petroica phoenicea* was seen at the beach near Hutchins camp. Roaring Beach was beautiful and the rocky foreshore beyond interesting geologically. Qug took up Kevin's challenge to hunt for copepods in a putrid purple pool, to no avail.

Some of the group went on further in the hope of finding a tunnel or overhang that was rumoured to be on the foreshore. This quest led us to dauntingly spectacular cliffs. In an attempt to get around these we walked along a fence-line, had a confrontation with a farmer who turned out to be helpful after all, and ended up in a gravel pit. We decided that a gravel pit is a fine destination for a field trip, being a good spot to investigate colonising species such as *Drosera* (sun-dew) and *Schizaea* (comb fern). Orchids were too 'over' to identify. A Ewing's Tree Frog, *Litoria ewingi* hopped out from under a tuft of vegetation.

Near the paddock we watched a pair of Wedge-tailed Eagles *Aquila audax* circling overhead, a group of Dusky Woodswallows *Artamus cyanopterus*, and Spotted Pardalotes *Pardalotus punctatus* in the trees.

The day had turned hot by this time, so a few of us indulged in a short snorkel off the rocks near camp before packing up. We appreciated the opportunity to stay in this accommodation. Our thanks to Hutchins School.

Cowries (Kevin Bonham):

Notocypraea angustata and *N. declivis* (between Hutchins camp and Southport)

N. angustata and *N. declivis* (northern end of Roaring Beach)

N. declivis (Deephole Bay)

Orthoptera (Michael Driessen):

Pygmy grasshopper, *Tetrix collina* (Duckhole carpark)

Wingless grasshopper, *Phaulacridium vittatum* (Deephole)

Black field cricket, *Teleogryllus commodus* (Deephole)

Southeastern austroicetes, *Austroicetes vulgaris* (Deephole)

Swamp cricket, *Bobilla poene* (Track to Southport Bluff and Southport Bluff)

Raspy cricket, *Kinemanina* sp2 (Track to Southport Bluff) This species has not been formally described but recognised in the CSIRO collection.

Red-legged exarna, *Exarna includens* (Track to Southport Bluff and Southport Bluff)

Tasmanian grasshopper, *Tasmaniacris tasmaniensis* (Deephole)

Mole cricket, *Grylotalpia australis* (near Deephole) heard only.

Disappearing grasshopper, *Schizobothrus flavovittatus* (Hutchins camp)

Tasman swamp cricket, *Bobilla* probably *tasmani* (Hutchins camp and Duckhole Lake car park)

Plants of interest from Duckhole Lake track (Anna McEldowney and others):

Pittosporum bicolor (with very elongate leaves, 5-6mm wide and 50-70mm long)

Trochocarpa gunnii (small leaves)

Trochocarpa disticha (larger leaves)

Cyathodes glauca (large form)

Leptecophylla juniperina

Correa lawrenceana

Oylobium ellipticum

Drymophila cyanocarpa

Lomatia polymorpha (large trees)

Pseudopanax gunnii

Pimelea (2 sp)

Prionotes cerinthoides

Notelaea ligustrina

Plants from Deephole-Southport Bluff Beach (Anna McEldowney):

Eucalyptus obliqua

E. viminalis

E. tenuiramus

E. globulus

Westringia angustifolia

Westringia rubiaefolia (behind beach shingle)

Acacia myrtifolia

Acacia stricta

Acacia suaveolens

Hakea epiglottis

Persoonia juniperina

Rhytidium procumbens

Leucopogon ericoides
Leucopogon virgatus
Dillwynia glaberrima
Gompholobium heugelii
Schizaea fistulosa
Drosera pygmaea
Epacris impressa

Gleichenia sp
Gymnoschoenus sphaerocephalus
Sprengelia incarnata + variant with smaller leaves
more spread out along stems, fewer clear pink
flowers *Eucalyptus nitida* (near Bluff headland)
Ozothamnus reticulatus (behind beach shingle)
Aotus ericoides (including a very small leaf form)

Snails (Kevin Bonham):

at Dover car-park:-

Paralaoma caputspinulae

P. halli

Vallonia pulchella (introduced). It is common in Hobart and recorded in Launceston, but has not been recorded from any small Tasmanian towns before.

on Duckhole Lake track:-

Caryodes dufresnii

Helicarion cuvieri

Paralaoma mucooides

Mulathena fordei

Roblinella gadensis (striped form)

Allocharopa legrndi

Elsothera ricei (southernmost record by about 3km)

Fungi List, Duckhole Lake Track, 6 April 2007 (G.Gates and D.Ratkowsky):

[* denotes a Fungimap species (11 sighted)]

<i>Agaricus</i> sp. 'marzipan'	<i>Entoloma porphyrescens</i>	<i>Mycena subgalericulata</i>
<i>Armillaria novae-zelandiae</i>	<i>Entoloma readiae</i>	<i>Mycena toyerlaricola</i>
<i>Ascocoryne sarcoides</i> *	<i>Entoloma</i> sp. 'cystidiosum'	<i>Mycena viscidocruenta</i> *
<i>Aurantiporus pulcherrimus</i>	<i>Entoloma</i> sp. 'Marriott's Marvel'	<i>Mycoacia fuscoatra</i>
<i>Australoporus tasmanicus</i>	<i>Entoloma sulphureum</i>	<i>Neolentiporus maculatissimus</i> *
<i>Austroboletus novae-zelandiae</i>	<i>Fistulinella mollis</i>	<i>Panellus stipticus</i>
<i>Austropaxillus muelleri</i>	<i>Fomes hemitephrus</i>	<i>Phaeocollybia tasmanica</i>
<i>Biscogniauxia</i> aff. <i>capnodes</i>	<i>Gymnopilus ferruginosus</i>	<i>Phellinus wahlbergii</i>
<i>Bisporella</i> sp. 'green-yellow'	<i>Hydnum repandum</i>	<i>Phellodon niger</i>
<i>Boletellus obscurecoccineus</i> *	<i>Hypholoma brunneum</i>	<i>Phellodon</i> sp. 'brown'
<i>Cantharellus concinnus</i>	<i>Inocybe</i> sp. 'small, yellowy brown'	<i>Pholiotina</i> sp.
<i>Cantharellus</i> sp. 'dawn'	<i>Laccaria</i> sp.	<i>Pluteus</i> sp. 'dark'
<i>Claudopus</i> sp.	<i>Lactarius clarkeae</i>	<i>Polyporus melanopus</i>
<i>Clavaria miniata</i>	<i>Lactarius eucalypti</i>	<i>Polyporus nigrocrustatus</i>
<i>Clavicornia piperata</i> (fine form)	<i>Lactarius stenophyllus</i>	<i>Postia caesia</i>
<i>Cortinarius</i> sp. 'dry, violet earthball'	<i>Lactarius wirrabara</i>	<i>Postia pelliculosa</i>
<i>Cortinarius</i> sp. 'orange'	<i>Leccinum</i> sp. 'chocolate chip'	<i>Postia</i> sp. 'black-yellow'
<i>Cortinarius</i> sp. 'Phlegmacium, ochre cap, white stipe'	<i>Lentinellus tasmanicus</i>	<i>Pseudobaeospora</i> sp. 'plum'
<i>Cortinarius submagellanicus</i>	<i>Leotia lubrica</i> *	<i>Pseudohydnum gelatinosum</i> *
<i>Crepidotus applanatus</i>	<i>Lepiota</i> sp. 'sooty'	<i>Ramaria lorithamnus</i>
<i>Cystolepiota</i> sp.	<i>Leucocoprinus</i> sp.	<i>Rhodocollybia butyracea</i>
<i>Dermocybe cramesina</i>	<i>Limacella</i> sp. 'Fiona'	<i>Russula albonigra</i>
<i>Dermocybe</i> sp. 'Mt Mangana pink'	<i>Marasmiellus affixus</i>	<i>Russula compacta</i>
<i>Descolea recedens</i>	<i>Marasmius elegans</i> *	<i>Russula lenkunya</i>
<i>Discinella terrestris</i>	<i>Mycena albidocapillaris</i>	<i>Russula maragania</i>
<i>Entoloma albidocoeruleum</i>	<i>Mycena austrororida</i> *	<i>Russula</i> sp. 'deep pink cap, white gills and stipe'
<i>Entoloma aromaticum</i>	<i>Mycena carmeliana</i>	<i>Stereum ostrea</i> *
<i>Entoloma chrysopus</i>	<i>Mycena interrupta</i> *	<i>Stropharia formosa</i>
<i>Entoloma conferendum</i>	<i>Mycena mulawaestris</i>	<i>Trametes versicolor</i>
<i>Entoloma indigoticoumbrinum</i>	<i>Mycena nargan</i> * <i>Mycena</i> sp. 'brown cap, white decurrent gills, glutinous stipe'	<i>Tricholoma</i> sp. 'brown, bitter'

Excursion photos can be seen at <http://www.tasfieldnats.org.au/ExcNPhotos/ExcNPhotos.htm>.

