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## LEONARD RODWAY

### BOTANIST

Leonard Rodway (1853-1936) CMG, dentist and botanist was born in Devon, England, son of Henry Barron Rodway, dentist, and Elizabeth (Allin). He trained in the training ship "Worcester" and served at sea for three years before studying to be a dentist at the Middlesex Hospital, London. He qualified in 1878 and migrated to Brisbane where he married Louisa Phillips. They settled in Hobart in 1880. Rodway practised as a dentist and also acted as dental surgeon to the Hobart General Hospital. He devoted his spare time to botany and preparing a catalogue of Tasmanian plants. He published *The Tasmanian Flora* (Hobart 1903), *Some Wild Flowers of Tasmania* (Hobart 1910), *Tasmanian bryophyta* (Hobart 1914-16) and contributed many papers to the Royal Society of Tasmania to which he was elected in 1884. He was Honorary Government Botanist from 1896 - 1932 and established a Herbarium in 1928. He was a trustee of the Botanical Gardens 1911 - 1928 and then Director of the Gardens. He was lecturer in Botany to the University of Tasmania 1923 - 1929. He was also a foundation member of the Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club and a leader of its bush excursions. He received the CMG in 1917

Six volumes of manuscript notes and drawings on Tasmanian plants, with some enclosed correspondence with well-known botanists, were given to the Royal Society (originally part of the Rodway Memorial Library).

RS22/

- 1 Botanical notes by L. Rodway (RS.Lib. 581.9946)  
Notes on plant species,ms, some illustrated by drawings or plates from publications in 6 volumes. One page per plant, with facing page for drawing. Pages numbered 1 - 2000 through volumes 1 - 4, beginning again at 1 in volume 5 (volume 5: pp 1 - 250, vol. 6 251 - 500 and volume 6 also has entry numbers.  
Letters from botanists enclosed but now listed and filed separately (see below 2 - 23)  
(6 quarto volumes, 250 mm x 200 mm x 5 mm, quarter bound green leather and cloth, titled gold)
- 2-23 Correspondence and enclosures 1892 - 1927  
Letters from botanists found enclosed in volumes adjacent to relevant entries.
- 2 Richard Thomas Baker (1854-1941), Curator of Technological Museum Sydney, botanist with especial interest in eucalyptus oils.  
Sunday 189- tree at Tasmania University, Domain, is form of eucalyptus common in NSW. (encl.vol.2 p.528/9)  
2 Apr. 1902 E.Gunnii samples received (vol.2 p.622/3)
- 3 Charles Baron Clarke (1832-1906), Herbarium, Royal Gardens Kew  
26 Feb. 1896 *Galinia graminifolia* Rodway, *Schoenus*  
(encl. vol 5 p.152)

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- 4 Percy H.N. Corney, letter addressed to "Bertie", referring to Mr Rodway  
6 Feb. 1901 "White weed": Kempton Board of Agriculture says  
people regard it as a pest, stock only eat it if no other feed available, no  
injurious effect on stock, but meat smells and is not fit to eat. (vol.1 p.86)
- 5 Clem. Fitzgerald, St. Helens  
17 May 1892 *Hakea*, grub fungus (encl. vol 3 p.1286/7)
- 6 Walter Hill, Conservator of Forests, Adelaide  
21 Feb. 1921 *Eucalyptus Dalrympleana* mountain gum, also  
photographs. (encl. vol.2 p.528/9)
- 7 M. Koch, Mt. Lyndhurst, S.A.  
ND Specimens of grass and seed (encl. vol 5 p.1)
- 8 J.G. Luckmann, National Herbarium, Melbourne  
12 Jan. 1899 *Eucalyptus Stuartium* etc (encl.vol .2 p.554/5)  
3 July 1899 *Eucalyptus Globulans* (encl.vol.2 p.722/3)  
19 Jan.1900 *Rumex dumosus pseudanthus* (encl.vol.3 p.1494/5)  
22 May 1900 *Eucalyptus Regnans, Lycopodium carotimanum*  
(encl. vol 2 p.658/9)  
17 May 1901 *Eucalyptus* (encl. vol.2 p.554/5)
- 9 Daniel McAlpine (1849-1932), Vegetable Pathologist of the Department of  
Agriculture, Melbourne  
18 Aug. 1903 Fungi (back vol. 5)  
27 Aug. 1903 "  
28 Sept. 1903 "  
21 Oct. 1903 "  
7 Oct. 1904 "  
27 May 1905 "  
20 Oct. 1906 "  
17 May 1907 "
- 10 Joseph Henry Maiden (1859-1925), Sydney Botanic Gardens.  
11 Mar. 1899 *Eucalyptus*: Baker's *E.paludosa*, *E. obliqua* (p.554/5)  
25 Nov. 1899 *Eucalyptus* (Encl. vol.2 p.554/5)  
4 Dec. 1899 "  
18 Mar. 1901 "  
15 July 1901 *Eucalyptus urigeria* (encl. vol 2 p.692/3)  
30 Sept. 1901 *Eucalyptus Maidenii* or *Globulus* (p.764/5)  
9 Oct. 1901 *Eucalyptus haemastoma* or *dives* Schaw (p.622/3)  
10 Oct. 1901 *Eucalyptus Regnans* (encl. vol 2 p.622/3)  
10 Feb. 1902 *Eucalyptus Macarthuri* - off print article (p.554/5)  
15 Sept. 1902 *E.Gunnii*, *E.Macarthuri*, leaf, offprint encl.  
(encl. p.622/3)  
5 Jan. 1904 *Hymenophyllum marginatum* (vol.5 p.102)
- 11 George Edward Masee (1850-1917), Herbarium, Royal Gardens, Kew  
6 Sept. 1896 Fungi *Stephensia* (back of vol. 5)  
22 Dec. 1896 Fungi (back of vol. 5)  
23 June 1897 Fungi - LR.'S specimens (encl vol 6 p.6223-5)
- 12 B. Moore, Strahan  
27 July 1903 *Gleichenia* (encl. vol 5 p.98)

**F. von Mueller to Leonard Rodway**  
**May 1892 - Oct. 1893**  
Royal Society of Tasmania: Rodway Notes RS22/13

Five letters found enclosed in the botanical notebooks of  
Leonard Rodway (1853-1936), CMG  
Honorary Government Botanist of Tasmania 1896 - 1932,  
Lecturer in Botany University of Tasmania 1923 - 1929  
Dentist in Hobart from 1880

(1) 1/5/92

The Eucalyptus, of which you sent specimens, dear Mr Rodway, is of great interest, and was named at the Melbourne Meeting of the Australian Association E. Perriniana, as then Mr Perrin formerly forest administrator of Tasmania exhibited living and dried plants. It holds the same position to E. Stuartiana, which also [in its *deleted*] occurs occasionally in an ashy grey form, as E. Risdoni to E. Amygdalina, and as E. Cordata to E. Urnigera. The anthers are narrow ellipsoid, not as in E. Risdoni kidney shaped. I should like to get some more specimens for critical examination, particularly also fruit quite ripe. What is the nature of the bark and the height of the tree?

While reconstructing with my diminished means my Department, I have had very little time to work descriptively on plants, but your Galinia which needs comparison with several New Zealand species and which meanwhile I named G Rodwayi, shall soon also have attention.

Regards  
Ferd. von Mueller.

[At top rough sketches (or doodles) in pencil]

(2) 22/12/92

The Coprosma sent by you, dear Mr Rodway, is C. Petrei Cheeseman, which I showed some time ago from specimens [of *deleted*] sent by Mr J.B. Moore from Mt. Tyndall, to extend from N.Z. to Tasmania. It is one of the very few blue fruited species of this genus, and your observations on the bisexuality of the flowers prove furthermore the correctness of my view in uniting Nertera with Coprosma into one genus.

With best festive salutation your  
Ferd. von Mueller

Have you lately heard from Mr Moore and Mr Fitzgerald? I have not.

(3) 16/2/93

Am not much surprised, dear Mr Rodway, that the blue-fruited Coprosma proved distinct from the genuine species of which I had no good specimens to compare. I think that I ought not to be excluded from the final elucidation of this plant as Mr Moore confided it in first instance to me. Indeed in my description of fruiting specimens only (R.S. Tasm. 17 Aug. 1891) I said pointedly that the flowers might prove the plant distinct from C. Petriei, and that in such a case the plant ought to be called C. Moorei. What I now suggest therefore, would be that it be so named under our joint authority, and if you will write some descriptive notes [descriptions *altered*] and forward some flowering specimens I will finish off by additional remarks, so that together with Mr Petrie's observations [remarks *deleted*], this Coprosma can be brought as confirmed now before the next meeting of the R.S. of Tasm. The ambiguity of C. Petriei even in N.Z. has not yet been cleared up for I feel quite convinced that the supposed red fruited state does not belong to the genuine species.

Always respectfully  
your  
Ferd. von Mueller

I can send some few other notes on Tasm. plants to the R.S. there for the next meeting.  
When will that be?

*Inserted at side of letter:*

Your specimen has not yet arrived but will probably come tomorrow.

Perhaps you will find flowers of Cymodacea

(4) 7/7/93

As you rightly assumed, dear Mr Rodway, the Leptorrhynchos sent by you is *L. nitidulus*.

When collecting myself this species in the then wilds of Gippsland, fully 40 years ago I recognized it as the Candallean plant and as such it appears printed in my large Report to the Vict. Parliament in 1854 already. Steetz already in 1844 distinguished *L. linearis* from *L. nitidulus*. To make quite sure, I sent a specimen of the Gippsland plants (which is identical with yours) to Alph. D.C., asking him to compare it with his father's original specimen of *L. nitidulus*, and the result was a declaration of identity.

Simultaneously I asked Prof Aschersen in Berlin to reexamine the original specimen of Lessing's *L. Conearis*, and - as predicted by me - he declared it also a form of *L. squamatus*.

I fear you lost all faith in me for help. But the plants of the Elder Exped. took up much time (700 species), the Bailey intrusion (now happily overcome) upset me much in calm work, the reduced means of the Department - gradually to be regained - retarded work also, on systematic subjects the interest of the bread winning people being paramount especially in such directions as these. But gradually all matters get into right course again.

This shows you how I always persevered to clear off any doubts.

[No signature]

(5) 24/10/93

What you just sent, dear Mr Rodway, is *Isoelopsis graminifolia*, which is not likely an introduced plant considering its companions there with you. We have under similar isolation also *Euphorbia Drummondii* in Tasmania. So it must be regarded as a remarkable addition to the Tasmanian Flora. Doubtless you will bring this under the notice of the next meeting of your R.S. I may mention that 3 years before Turczaninow published this from Drummond's W.A. collections, I had (in 1848) recognized this as a new genus, when exploring in S.A. but my manuscript at the then war-time was allowed to be left unpublished so that Turczaninow anticipated me. The name, which I had given was *Rhizoclophalum*.

Respectfully your  
Ferd von Mueller.

Verte  
Plants so small are readily overlooked.