

Southern and Middle Queensland, and the fishes enumerated here were obtained chiefly during an excursion made by Sir W. Thomson.¹ All the species obtained are known to enter freely brackish and fresh water.

¹[There seemed to us, from what we heard at Sydney, to be a chance of making valuable additions to the knowledge of the natural history of South-East Australia, by examining carefully the fauna of some of the rivers. Those in which *Ceratodus* had lately been discovered had the greatest interest for us, for we hoped that, besides getting a good supply of *Ceratodus* in all stages, we might by effective netting and other means find some additional forms of the Dipnoi.

Accordingly a little party, consisting of Lieutenant (now Commander) Aldrich, who afterwards commanded the sledge which ran westwards from the "Alert's" winter quarters along the coast of Grinnel's Land, Mr Murray, and myself, with Pearcey and a couple of blue-jackets in attendance, was organised to go to Brisbane during the stay of the ship at Sydney, with the view of pushing on, if time permitted, to the upper reaches of the Mary or the Burnett.

We got information and introductions from Dr Bennett, Mr Hill, and others. We prepared a stock of trammel nets, lines, and other fishing appliances, a box of dynamite cartridges, fowling pieces, and collecting gear of all kinds, and we arranged to leave Sydney by the "City of Brisbane" on Tuesday the 29th of April 1874; the vessel was, however, detained by bad weather till the 4th of May. We arrived at Brisbane on the morning of the 7th. An intimation of our intended trip had preceded us, and we found a kind invitation from the Marquis of Normanby to Government House awaiting us at the club, of which we had already been made honorary members.

We stayed a few days at Brisbane seeing all that was to be seen. The governor's A.D.C. tried to make arrangements to send us on to Gympie in carriages, but we found it more convenient to go by a coasting steamer to Maryburgh. The departure of the "Lady Bowen," the regular trading packet, was hurried to give us more time, and on Sunday the 10th we were steaming past a monotonous undulating coast-line, the low hills crowned with dusky woods of sombre gum-trees, past Fraser Island, one of the districts given up entirely to the natives, many of whom we saw in the distance, with a fine walk and gait, but absolutely unclothed. We were disappointed that none of them swam off to the steamer as they often do.

We reached Maryburgh on the morning of the 11th, and introduced ourselves to Mr Sheridan, the Collector of Customs, to whom we had been referred by Lord Normanby. We found Mr Sheridan a most pleasant companion, and a man of great intelligence and considerable special knowledge of natural science. He most kindly placed himself at our disposal during our stay, and he afterwards took the trouble to collect and send home to us a valuable collection of such species as we had not an opportunity of procuring in sufficient quantity during our short visit.

We went on in the evening in a couple of buggies through the bush of scattered gum-trees, to a little group of wooden shanties called Tiaro, about twenty miles above Maryburgh, on a pretty bend of the river Mary, with a good long stretch of open river, succeeded by some irregular rapids and deep pools, and overhanging woods farther up. The influence of the tide was slightly felt for a considerable distance beyond Tiaro, and some of the fishes had consequently an estuarine character.

We got the loan of a boat from a contractor who was deepening the river a little below Tiaro for the Queensland Government, and on the following day we were joined by Mr Sheridan with his boat and servant. We heard on all hands that the Barramunda (the native name for *Ceratodus*) was to be found occasionally in the neighbourhood, and we determined to spend the short time at our disposal in exploring the fauna of the river for a few miles up stream.

Lieutenant Aldrich and Mr Murray, with our escort and one or two natives whom we had secured, camped a little way up the river, and Mr Sheridan and I, as the seniors of the party, slept at Tiaro, rowing up the river in the morning, and usually reaching the camping-ground in time to supply the materials of stew for luncheon, of cockatoos, wallaby, ducks, &c., which we had shot by the way. For about ten days the river was fished day and night with net and rod, and fishes of several species were taken in large numbers, but we found no trace of *Ceratodus* or of any allied form. We had taken with us a number of powerful dynamite cartridges, and these were thrown, with a few feet of Bickford's fuse attached, into the deeper pools, and in a minute or so a shock like a blow from a heavy wooden mallet was felt on the bottom of the boat, one could see a slight rise on the surface of the water, and perhaps a hundred fishes of different sorts and sizes rose to the surface and floated on their backs or sides. Those we required were taken into the boat with a landing-net, and the rest recovered from their shock in a few minutes and swam away. The number of individual fishes taken in this way was very large, but it is somewhat singular that *Ceratodus* never occurred among them. At the end of about ten days three specimens of *Ceratodus* were taken, one by Lieutenant Aldrich with hook and bait, and two others afterwards, one by a native.

As our leave of absence was nearly exhausted, we now returned to Maryburgh, and after waiting for a few days to catch a return steamer, we rejoined the Challenger at Sydney.