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# Thomas Reedy 1842-1929: gardener for Sir William Macarthur and plant collector on the *Chevert* Expedition to New Guinea in 1875

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***Abstract*:** Thomas Reedy (1842-1929), gardener from 1854-1926 at Camden Park, the family estate of the Macarthurs in western Sydney was sent by Sir William Macarthur on the *Chevert* Expedition to New Guinea in 1875. He collected plants on islands off the Queensland coast; Cape Grenville; around the Somerset outpost on the tip of Cape York; on islands in the Torres Strait; and around two locations on the mainland of southern Papua New Guinea. Reedy sent or brought back 800-1000 living plants, in addition to an unknown number of seeds, and at least 157 dried specimens, the latter sent to Baron Ferdinand von Mueller in Melbourne. This study is focused on locating the dried plant specimens now held in herbaria and highlighting their significance.

Reedy is something of an enigma with little ever written about him. His initial has been presented erroneously since 1875 and has gone through various morphs including J, P, M and T; searches for Reedy best use all these initials or just his family name.

Keywords: *Chevert*, Sir William Macleay, Baron von Mueller, Camden Park

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## Thomas Reedy (1842–1929)

Thomas Reedy entered the employment of Sir William Macarthur in 1854 at the age of twelve, soon after arriving from Tipperary in Ireland (Anon. 1926), and was to stay in the employ of the Macarthur and Onslow families at Camden Park in western Sydney for his entire working life (1854-1926). He was held in high esteem, and at his retirement from his position as head gardener on February 20, 1926, at the age of 84 (Anon. 1926), he was offered a permanent home on the Camden Park estate. However, he chose to reside with his son James in Hurstville, Sydney. He passed away in January 1929 almost three years after his retirement; his funeral service was held at St. Pauls Church, Camden and he was buried in the Catholic Cemetery at Camden (Anon. 1929).

Reedy's life had been long associated with the historic gardens at Camden Park (34°05'18"S 150°43'23"E) at Camden in western Sydney where he had been Sir William Macarthur's "right hand man" and had held control over the orchard operations from their inception to his last day—he planted every tree by hand in the big orchard (Anon. 1926). Thus for 70 years Reedy was the unheralded gardener standing in the shadow of Macarthur. Sir William Macarthur (1800-1882) (a son of Captain John Macarthur, a noted figure in the very early history of Australia), was deeply involved in agriculture and horticulture; he is credited with introducing the camellia, cultivating fruit trees and vegetables, growing orchids in a hot house and, from 1843 publishing an annual catalogue of Camden Park's plants. He is also credited with pioneering winemaking in Australia, and was President of the Agricultural Society of New South Wales (Teale 2016). He was Commissioner at the International Exhibition in Paris 1855 where his collection of Australian woods was shown, and Executive Commissioner at London in 1862; his catalogue contained authentic Aboriginal names of trees (Maiden 1908; Teale 2016).

However this paper does not attempt to unravel Reedy's involvement at the gardens of Camden Park, nor his precise role in the horticultural pursuits of his employer Macarthur. My aim is to introduce Reedy and to shed light on the plants that he and his aides collected during the 1875 *Chevert* Expedition to tropical Queensland, Torres Strait and New Guinea; and in particular to identify as precisely as possible what plants were collected, where and when.

## Methods

This study forms part of a larger study into the natural history collections of the Macleays (a family whose members were prominent in Australian entomological studies) and benefits from this deeper insight (e.g Fulton 2001; 2012; 2013; 2016a; 2016b; Fulton and Bialek 2015 and my unpublished notes). Dates were taken from my own unpublished analysis of the *Chevert* Expedition generated from the personal journal of Sir William Macleay (Macleay 1875a) and the private diary of Lawrence Hargrave, aeronautical pioneer and explorer (Hargrave 1874–1876).

The literature and herbarium records were searched for extant Reedy or Macarthur specimens: Macarthur specimens were only searched for in the area and times corresponding with the *Chevert* Expedition and following leads in Macarthur's 1875 *Sydney Morning Herald* newspaper article (Macarthur 1875). The following herbaria were searched by their own staff: Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (K); Papua New Guinea National Herbarium (LAE); Singapore Herbarium (SING); Central Regional Centre —Botanical Survey of India (BSI); Herbarium Bogoriense (BO); National Herbarium of Victoria (MEL); National Herbarium of New South Wales (NSW); and Australia's Virtual Herbarium. Many herbaria stated that their databases were incomplete or could not be searched by a collector's name (searches by hand were limited without explicitly having the names of taxa). I did not search or press for more searches after this was established.

Locations for Reedy's specimen collections were deduced or taken directly from the following sources: the two diaries given above; the publications of Melbourne botanist Ferdinand von Mueller (1875–77; 1876a; 1876b 1878; 1888) and Adolf Engler (1910); the data from the sheets of surviving herbarium specimens held at MEL and NSW available on Australia's Virtual Herbarium; and Reedy's sequential specimen-numbering system (Reedy numbered his specimens in chronological order) which aided specimen placement at collecting sites. However, this was not a panacea to resolving collection locations, because many specimens or accounts of specimens no longer have Reedy's original number making his numbering system a fragmentary utility. The specimen with Reedy number 31 (MEL 2046542A) did not appear to follow Reedy's sequential pattern; perhaps at some stage the number, which is a very small cut-out piece of paper, has become separated from its original specimen and incorrectly returned to another specimen. Whatever happened, the number 31 is ignored in this assessment of collecting locations. Some errors were found in Mueller's publications. He erroneously transcribed Katau River to Ratau (see below) and he attributed some specimens erroneously to Baxter's River instead of the Ethel River (see below).

## Reedy's Initials

Confusion has reigned over the initial of the given name for Thomas Reedy. Dowe (2007) highlighted that Reedy had been variously initialled J, M or P, although Dowe used the given name Thomas that had been published by Macarthur in 1875 (Macarthur 1875). The initials under consideration are given in square brackets before they are discussed. [J] The first culprit in the erroneous application of Reedy's initial was Mueller who published "J. Reedy" in his first and then subsequent issues of *Descriptive Notes on Papuan Plants* (Mueller 1875-77). This was probably a transcription error. Mueller may have had some difficulty deciphering Reedy's handwriting. In his second issue of *Descriptive Notes on Papuan Plants*, Mueller corrected the repeated transcription error of "Ratau River" with the following statement: "Katau-River; J. Reedy. The great watercourse, just mentioned, was incorrectly written in the first portion of this enumeration"

(Mueller 1876, p 25). [P] Of the fourteen herbarium sheets checked from the National Herbarium of Victoria (MEL) all carried Mueller's label with the name "Reedy" without initials. The single sheet seen from the National Herbarium of New South Wales (NSW–303018 *Eucalyptus papuana*) had "Patrick Reedy". The given name "Patrick" had been pencilled onto the sheet's MEL label (see Figure 2). In Joseph Maiden's *Records of Australian Botanists* under the heading *Macarthur, William (1800–1882)* appears the following: "He sent his gardener Mr. P. Reedy, to New Guinea" (Maiden 1908). Perhaps Maiden is the origin of the P initial? [M] The Council of Heads of Australasian Herbaria (CHAH) website (2007) quoted the botanical historian Norman Hall (specifically his book *Botanists of the Eucalypts*, 1978) to mistakenly state that Reedy, "who collected the type of *Eucalyptus papuana*" in 1875, was named Michael, referencing a Michael Reedy who was "the only Reedy whose death was recorded in New South Wales during the nineteenth century" (Hall 1978; CHAH 2007). However, Reedy's funeral and a short biography were reported in the *Camden News* and *The Sydney Morning Herald* (Anon. 1926; 1929). The assortment of names ascribed to Reedy has led to different documents giving a variety of different initials. Thus, searches for Reedy can be made using the initials J, P, M, or T, although only T will stand for Thomas.

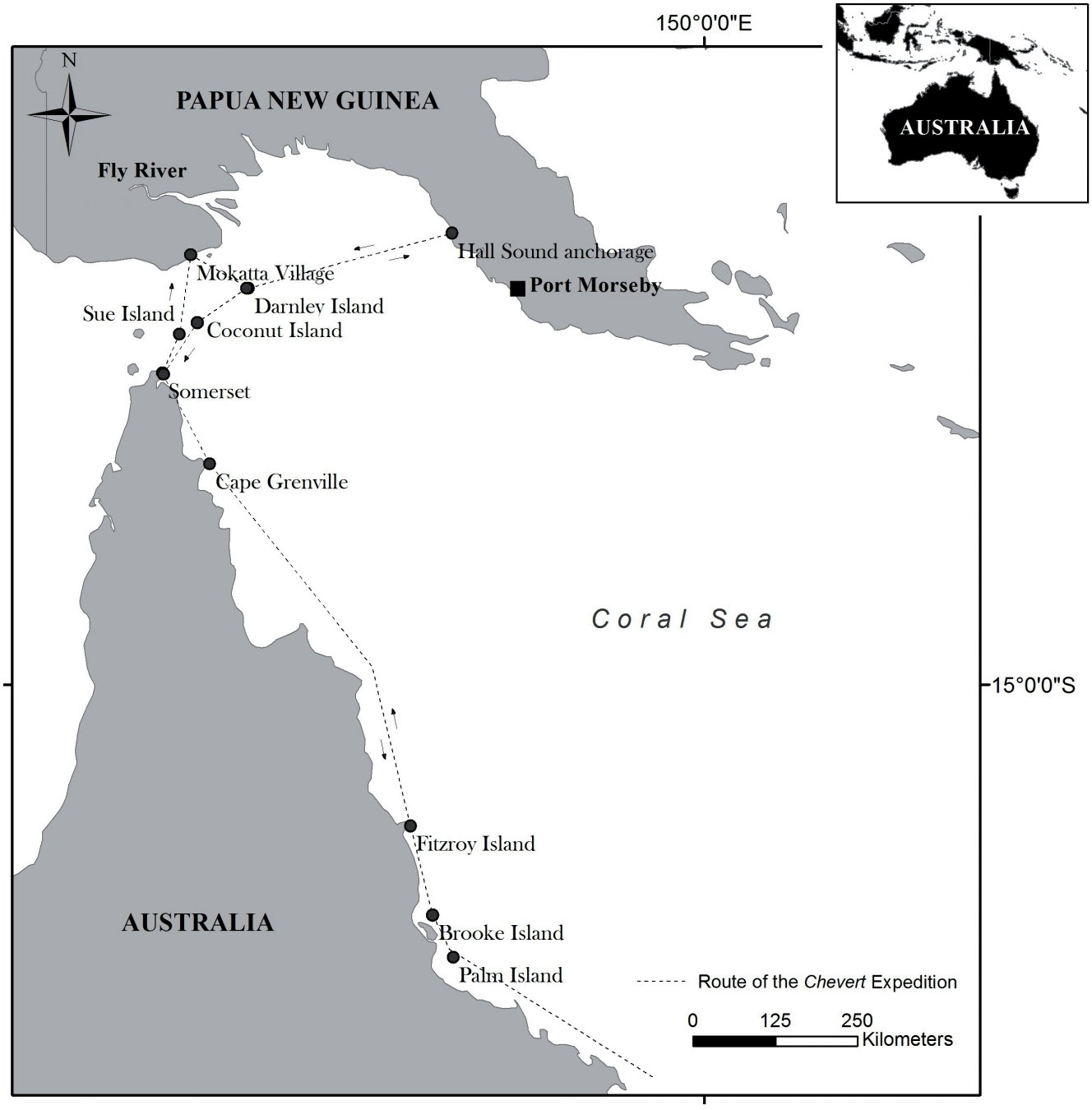


**Figure 1.** The 1875 voyage of the *Chevert* showing collecting points and the general direction of travel.

## The *Chevert* Expedition

In May 1875, the barque *Chevert* departed Sydney bound for New Guinea, the first scientific expedition originating in Australia to leave for foreign shores (Figure 1). It was fully funded by William Macleay (1792-1865), the founder of the Macleay Museum. Along with a sailing crew, a team of zoological and ethnographical collectors made up the ship's complement. These included: Arthur Onslow; George Masters; Edward Spalding; John Brazier; William Petterd; Lawrence Hargrave and the ship's doctor, Dr James, who doubled as a collector and stuffer (Fulton 2012). The expedition was enormously successful adding approximately 1,000 birds, 800 fish, and many reptiles, mammals, insects, spiders, marine molluscs and ethnographic objects to Macleay Museum's collections (Macleay 1875b; Fletcher 1893; Fulton 2012).

However, this often-repeated story omits the plant collectors who accompanied these zoologists, and the indigenous people who often led the collectors to their specimens and helped collect them. From Camden Park Sir William Macarthur sent his gardener Reedy with assistant Dingwall (initials unknown) on the expedition, and had Felix Knight join them shortly before it concluded. Macarthur wrote to *The Sydney Morning Herald* less than two weeks after Macleay announced the conclusion of the expedition, to explain his collectors to an enquiring public. The majority of his article is included here because it is a valuable source of information.

> "Sir,—Being the person with the chief interest in the collections belonging to the vegetable kingdom made in the late expedition to New Guinea, will you oblige me by giving room for the following statement to correct misapprehension:—There was no "botanist," or, correctly speaking, "botanical collector" in the expedition, i.e., one capable of applying a scientific name or description to any new thing. Mr. Macleay very kindly gave me free quarters amongst his working staff on board the *Chevert* for three men—the chief of them is Mr Thomas Reedy, who from childhood has been employed in the garden at this place, for several years in full charge. I sent him at his earnest solicitation, and the other two, neither of them being even gardeners, but one, an excellent seaman, to assist Reedy in his collecting, and the expedition generally to the best of their ability. When I state that Reedy chiefly, by his own personal exertions and with the aid of the aborigines, has sent or brought back from 800 to 1000 living plants (not to mention seeds and dried specimens), most of them of considerable value, and the greater part in excellent condition, it will be admitted that my interest (Mr Macleay most liberally leaving them wholly at my disposal) could scarcely have been placed in better hands. But Reedy has no pretention to be called a "botanist," he is simply a most trusty, self-taught gardener, with great love of plants, very quick and observant, indefatigable in his vocation, and rarely, if ever, forgetting a plant he has once seen. Going, therefore, to an almost untrodden field, he has pretty well hit upon what was desirable to bring away. I am astonished that he has found opportunity to do so much, and to do it so well… The dried specimens of plants, though numerous, are by no means in such satisfactory condition as the living specimens. But, such as they are, I propose to send a complete collection, with such living plants as may seem desirable, to Dr Hooker of the Royal Gardens, Kew, and another to Baron F. Von Mueller, Melbourne. But the chief portion of the live plants generally, will probably pass into the hands of the Messrs. Veitch of Chelsea, reserving, however, specimens for my friends, and for the Botanical Gardens at Calcutta, Peradenya (Ceylon), Buitenzorg (Java), and Singapore, not forgetting our own establishments at Sydney and Brisbane" (Macarthur 1875).

**Table 1. Collecting localities for Thomas Reedy and the *Chevert* Expedition in 1875**

| Macleay's name | Other names | Traditional owners | Latitude & Longitude | Dates |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Australia | | | | |
| Elizabeth Bay | | Gadigal/Eora ↗ | 33°52'08.5"S 151°13'42.7"E | |
| Port Jackson | Sydney Harbour | Gadigal/Eora | 33°51'17.8"S 151°14'23.7"E | |
| Vaucluse Bay | | Gadigal/Eora ↗ | 33°50'58.2"S 151°16'19.8"E | |
| No. 2 Percy Island | Middle Percy Island | Guwinmal ↗ | 21°39'05.0"S 150°14'34.0"E | |
| Palm Island | Great Palm Island | Nyawaygi ↗ | 18°43'28.6"S 146°34'15.1"E | June 1 |
| Brooke Island anchorage | Brook Islands | Wargamaygan ↗ | 18°09'41.9"S 146°12'50.0"E | |
| Garden Island | | Wargamaygan | 18°11'03.1"S 146°08'40.2"E | |
| Goold Island | | Wargamaygan | 18°09'56.2"S 146°10'12.8"E | |

| Macleay's name | Other names | Traditional owners | | Latitude & Longitude | Dates |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Brooke Island | North Island | Wargamaygan | | 18°08'43.0"S<br>146°17'16.7"E | June 4 |
| North Barnard Island | Kent Island | Djirbalngan | ↗ | 17°40'26.3"S<br>146°10'36.5"E | |
| Fitzroy Island | | Yidinjdji | ↗ | 16°55'38.1"S<br>145°59'04.8"E | June 5 |
| Low and Woody Islands | Low Isles | Kuku-yalanji | | 16°22'52.5"S<br>145°33'40.1"E | |
| Turtle Reef | Turtle Group Reef | Guugu-yimidhirr | | 14°42'57.7"S<br>145°09'56.1"E | |
| Howick Island | | Mutumui | | 14°30'08.3"S<br>144°58'25.0"E | |
| Barrow Island | North & South Barrow I. | Mutumui | | 14°20'40.8"S<br>144°39'02.6"E | |
| Flinders Island | | Mutumui | | 14°10'37.3"S<br>144°15'08.0"E | |
| Cape Sidmouth (10 miles east of) | | Umpila | ↗ | 13°24'33.9"S<br>143°44'37.5"E | |
| Piper Island (6 miles south of) | | Kuuku Ya'u | ↗ | 12°14'38.3"S<br>143°13'05.8"E | |
| Cape Grenville | | Wuthathi | ↗ | 11°58'50.5"S<br>143°14'22.7"E | June12-17 |
| Boydong Cays | | Wuthathi | | 11°29'54.9"S<br>143°07'59.5"E | |
| Somerset | | Yadhaigana‡ | | 10°44'29.8"S<br>142°35'33.8"E | June 18-25 & Sept. 8-30 |
| Shallow Bay | | Yadhaigana‡ | ↗ | 10°43'41.0"S<br>142°34'31.9"E | |
| Blue Mud Bay | Mud Bay | Yadhaigana‡ | ↗ | 10°43'27.5"S<br>142°33'34.7"E | |
| Albany Island, Frederick Point | | Muralag | | 10°42'56.1"S<br>142°35'06.0"E | |
| Evans Bay | | Yadhaigana‡ | | 10°42'23.4"S<br>142°32'31.7"E | |
| Thursday Island | Waiben | Muralag | | 10°34'46.4"S<br>142°13'06.9"E | |
| Sue Island | Warraber Islet | Kalaw Lagaw Ya | | 10°12'25.8"S<br>142°49'25.6"E | June 26 & July 26-27 |
| Bet Island | Bara | Kalaw Lagaw Ya | | 10°08'45.7"S<br>142°49'10.7"E | |
| Coconut Island | Puruma (or Poruma) I. | Kalaw Kawaw Ya | | 10°02'59.6"S<br>143°04'09.2"E | Sept. 6 |
| Long Island | Sassie | Kalaw Kawaw Ya | | 10°01'46.2"S<br>142°50'50.2"E | |
| Yam Island | Iama | Kalaw Kawaw Ya | | 9°54'09.6"S<br>142°46'30.0"E | |
| Dungeness Island | Zagai | Kalaw Kawaw Ya | ↗ | 9°50'21.2"S<br>142°54'15.1"E | |
| Warrior Island | Tudu | Kalaw Kawaw Ya | | 9°48'11.5"S<br>142°58'28.9"E | |
| Yorke Islands | Masig | Kalaw Lagaw Ya | | 9°45'03.5"S<br>143°24'23.0"E | |
| Darnley Island | Erub Island | Erubam Le | | 9°34'50.8"S<br>143°46'16.9"E | July 30 to August 13 |
| Nepean Island | Attagoy | Meriam Mir | | 9°34'05.9"S<br>143°39'22.5"E | |
| Mt Cornwallis Island | Dauan | Kalaw Kawaw Ya | | 9°25'09.9"S<br>142°32'03.3"E | |

| Macleay's name | Other names | Traditional owners | Latitude & Longitude | Dates |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Poll Island | Guijar Islet | Kalaw Lagaw Ya | 9°22′1.2″ S, 144°7′1.2″E | |
| Anchor Cay | Anchor Cay | uninhabited | 9°21'43.0"S 144°05'56.0"E | |
| Bramble Cay | | Erubam Le | 9°08'31.1"S 143°52'29.9"E | |
| Papua New Guinea | | | | |
| Katow River (mouth) | Binaturi River | | 9°08'23.8"S 142°57'19.3"E | |
| Mokatta Village | | | 9°07'30.3"S 142°58'48.0"E | July 3-12 |
| Hall Sound anchorage (from Hargrave's diary) | | ⚓ | 8°49'42.1"S 146°33'02.9"E | August 18 to Sept. 1 |
| Hall Sound (south head) | | | 8°51'14.2"S 146°33'58.5"E | August 24 |
| Hall Sound (north head) | | | 8°48'50.3"S 146°34'25.7"E | |
| Yule Island | | | 8°49'06.3"S 146°32'01.2"E | August 18 to Sept. 1 |
| Ethel River | | | 8°48'51.2"S 146°36'06.7"E | August 25-26 |
| Cape Possession | | | 8°35'08.8"S 146°22'46.9"E | |

Headings: Macleay's names follow nomenclature used in 1875 during the *Chevert* Expedition, which are commonly seen in the literature while Other names are the names used at the date of this publication. Traditional owners are taken from language groups given in Horton (1996). Anchorages are given by the anchor symbol. Dates are terrestrial collection dates in 1875 which are the known dates of the *Chevert's* collecting efforts and coincide with Reedy's known collections.

*Chronology of collecting during the Chevert Expedition*

Reedy visited the *Chevert* on April 9 during its refit before the expedition to assess and advise how best to carry the living plants he would collect (Macleay 1875a). The plants would need to be held in place when the *Chevert* pitched and rolled with the waves. A simple structure of wooden beams fixed across the hold was devised to stop the plant containers from moving (Macmillan 1957, p137). The *Chevert* was bound for New Guinea, though it made planned stops along the way including islands on the Great Barrier Reef, Cape Grenville and the outpost of Somerset near the tip of the Cape York Peninsula. Later, when analysing the material collected on the expedition, Mueller focused on the Torres Strait Islands and New Guinea for his *Descriptive Notes on Papuan Plants* (1875-77). He covered at least some of the Australian plants in his *Fragmenta phytographiæ Australiae*. However, Reedy sent him the material some of which is known to survive in Sydney (NSW) and Melbourne (MEL) herbaria.

The expedition's first scheduled stop was at Middle Percy Island on May 28, 1875 (Table 1; Figure 1). Macleay remarked in his personal journal, "In a very short time nearly every man in the ship the Captain excepted was on shore." However, though it is reasonable to assume that Reedy collected plants whenever he could, there are no surviving plant records from this location (extant material is missing from many locations). Great Palm Island was the second stop; there are four surviving Reedy specimens from this site including *Cryptocarya murrayi*, which is labelled number "1" and represents the first dried specimen collected (Table 2). Reedy was apparently busy that day, June 1, with Macleay writing in his journal, "Reedy's botanical collection was bulky and satisfactory, but nothing I believe new, which was scarcely to be expected." June 4, Brook Islands anchorage, Reedy and others went across to the island in conditions Macleay described as "rough and disagreeable" from an "an exposed situation" (Macleay June 4, 1875). A specimen of *Aglaia elaeagnoidea* survives. June 5, Fitzroy Island, Macleay noted, "Reedy, I believe has had more success than usual today, inasmuch as he believes he has got two new ferns" (Macleay June 5, 1875). Both ferns are missing, though a specimen of *Darlingia darlingiana* collected at Fitzroy Island survives in Melbourne (MEL). On the run to Cape Grenville, Reedy was sent ahead in the steam launch with other collectors to Barrow Island for "an hour or two of collecting" (Macleay June 9, 1875). No known specimens survive. Cape Grenville was the next collection location with at least nine known surviving specimens. It was a watering site and repairs to the *Chevert* were undertaken, resulting in a stay of five days, June 12–17. On June 12, when the passing mail steamer *Normanby* was hailed, Reedy sent "some casks etc of plants" back to Macarthur (Macleay June 12, 1875). From the Cape Grenville anchorage Reedy collected on the mainland and on adjacent islands—those close by and more distant (Macleay June 12-16, 1875).

Somerset, near the tip of Cape York, was the next collection location with the *Chevert* anchoring in Blue Mud Bay on

June 18. Reedy collected in this general area until June 25; at one point Macleay explicitly states that "Reedy and Dingwall went botanizing with a native guide… …Reedy, I believe also had some success" (Macleay June 21, 1875). On June 22 a group including Reedy collected at Evans Bay with Macleay stating, "Masters and Spalding got some good birds and Reedy some plants" (Macleay June 23, 1875). Four specimens survive from the Somerset area including an orchid *Dendrobium rigidum R.Br.* but precisely where these plants were collected is unknown. The *Chevert* stopped here again on the return journey, September 8-30, and Reedy collected what was the last known numbered specimen of the expedition here, number "157", *Rhodamnia fordii*.

Sue Island, in Torres Strait, was reached on June 26. A large party went ashore, of which Lawrence Hargrave wrote in his diary that some fruit dates were gathered while Macleay wrote, "everyone got something" (Hargrave 1874–1876; Macleay June 27, 1875). Mueller (1875–77) cited two collections from Sue Island, but only one of the specimens *Capparis quiniflora* DC. has been located in Melbourne (MEL 2085336A). The *Chevert* stopped at some Torres Strait Islands twice, on the outward bound journey and again on the return, although the return journey was rushed giving little time for collecting. They stopped at Sue Island on June 26 and one month later on July 26-27.

On the voyage from Somerset to New Guinea they had travelled more than half the distance in only two days, which included collecting stops at Sue and Warrior Islands. They then spent another five days winding their way through coral reefs before the *Chevert* finally anchored off the New Guinea mainland near the mouth of the Binaturi River on July 3. This river was known at the time as the Katau (spelt "Katow" by Macleay and incorrectly transcribed as "Ratau" by Mueller). Here Reedy collected at least 25 specimens either surviving or cited by Mueller with perhaps the most well-known of them being Macarthur's Palm *Ptychosperma macarthurii* (Dowe 2007), because it used around the world in horticulture. The collections here were restricted to around the village of Mokatta and up to 10 miles (16 km) inland along the Binaturi River. Collecting along the river would have been limited due to the presence of crocodiles and some hostility from the inland people. The village was situated on the coast near the beach with impenetrable swamps and the river behind limiting the range of collections (Fletcher 1893; Fletcher 1929; Fulton 2012). Mueller's publications do not differentiate between collections around the Mokatta Village and collections along the Binaturi River. The *Chevert* stayed at the Mokatta anchorage for ten days departing on July 12. Again they picked their way back though the reefs and did not attempt terrestrial collecting until they reached Dungeness Island on July 19. Thence stopping at Dungeness, Long, Bet, Sue, Coconut, Yorke and Darnley Islands. There is one extant specimen from Coconut Island; however, (based on Reedy's numbering system) this must have been collected on September 6 during the return journey. At Darnley Island Felix Knight, the third botanical collector sent along with supplies by Macarthur, joined the expedition. The expedition had a long stay at Darnley Island of 12 collecting days, from July 30 to August 13. Yet there are only two extant specimens that may have come from Darnley Island, although Mueller gave this location to six specimens. However, this number should have been five. One, *Macaranga tanarius*, Mueller wrote (as a transcription error), "Mainland opposite Darnley-Island and Yule-Island" (Mueller 1875-77, p 7). There is no mainland opposite Darnley Island whereas Yule Island sits adjacent the mainland of New Guinea. Mueller also wrote this the correct way with the "mainland opposite Yule Island and Darnley Island" (Mueller 1875-77, p 11). This transcription error must be read and understood this way.

Hall Sound was the last mainland site in New Guinea visited. From this anchorage they accessed Yule Island, different sites on the New Guinea mainland (north and south heads) and took an excursion up the Ethel River where type specimens of *Eucalyptus papuana* (now *Corymbia papuana*) and *Elaeocarpus arnhemicus* were collected by Reedy (Figure 2). They arrived on August 18 and departed on September 1, a stay of 14 collecting days. During that time it is clear that the indigenous people of the area helped in collecting plants. William Petterd, one of the expeditioners, described long canoes full of indigenous people attending the *Chevert* each day and eager to trade. The botanical collectors, Reedy, Dingwall and Knight in particular reaping a rich harvest of "beautiful crotons, dracaenas and other foliage plants, the natives bringing them off in large numbers, highly delighted with their newly discovered means of obtaining our treasures" (Petterd 1876). None of the genera *Croton* or *Dracaena* survive as herbarium collections, nor were any reported by Mueller.

Collecting began on Yule Island immediately after their arrival in Hall Sound and continued throughout, except on days when they collected on the mainland or during their excursion inland along the Ethel River. However, Macleay describes one day his collectors devoted almost solely to skinning and stuffing, an activity not required from plant collectors. Yet the plant collectors could have found ways of tending to their plants. The first collections on the mainland (abreast of Yule Island—north head) occurred on August 24 and were followed by collecting on August 27 and 29 giving three days in total. On the latter two days, parties collected about the southern headland of Hall Sound. A tentative exploration of the Ethel River was undertaken on August 21 without any attempt to collect. This was followed by an excursion over the two days, from August 25 to 26, which ventured inland along the Ethel River. It was during these two days that the holotype of *Eucalyptus papuana* was obtained. Macleay's personal journal (1875) and Petterd (1876) give accounts of a village situated on a hill and that such higher ground gave rise to Eucalypt woodland, which was distinctly different from the mangroves and marshy lowlands where most collecting was undertaken. Of the surviving specimens or descriptions there are: nine from the mainland; eight from the Ethel River and ten from Yule Island. Mueller (1877, p. 103) incorrectly referred to the Ethel River as "Baxter's River"; Macleay and thus Reedy never collected there. Mueller likely confused the Baxter and Ethel Rivers, because the *Chevert* Expedition was immediately followed by a cruise headed by the missionary Reverend Macfarlane.

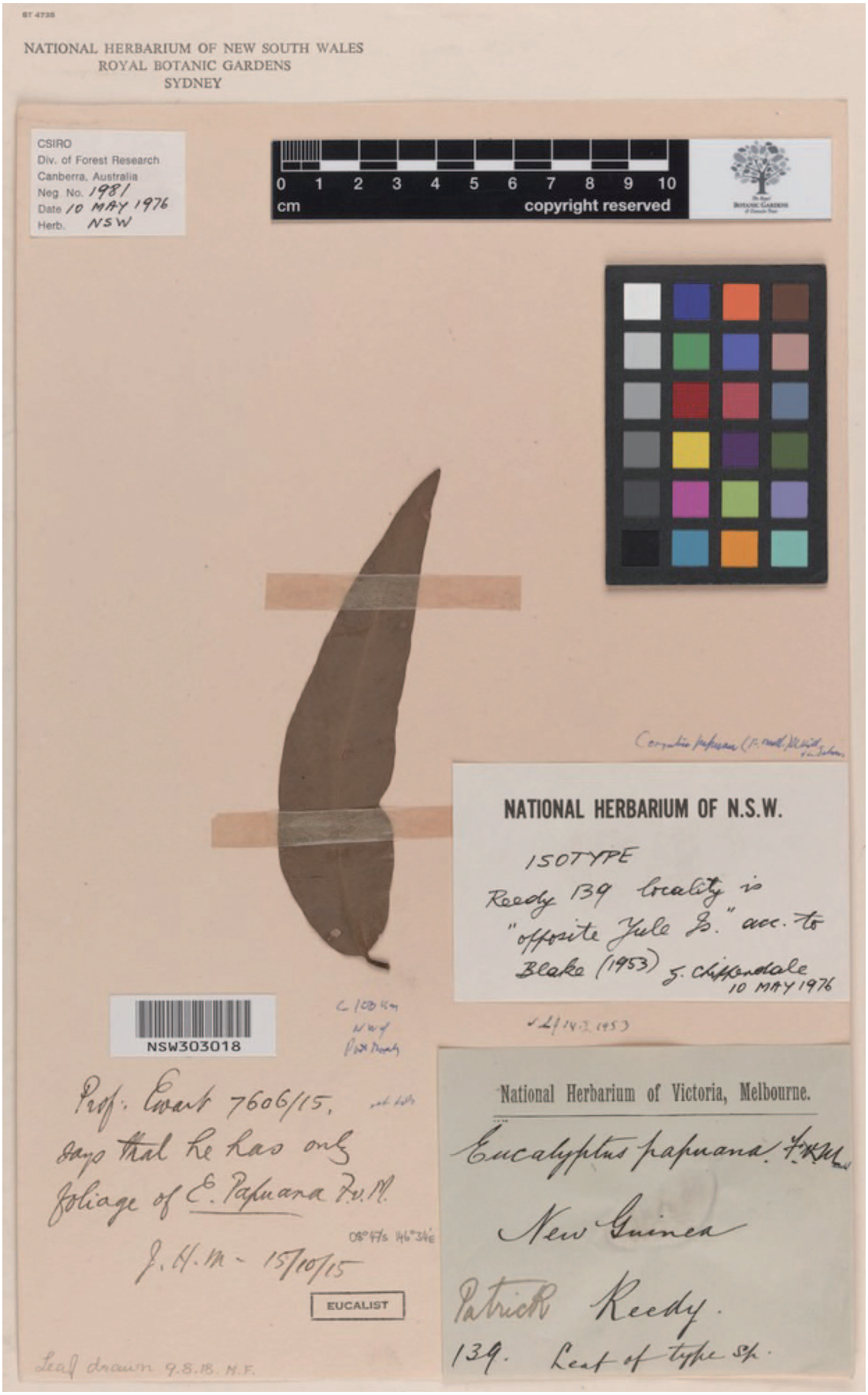


**Figure 2.** Specimen of *Corymbia papuana* collected by Thomas Reedy (specimen collecting number 139) on the *Chevert* Expedition in 1875. Note the added name "Patrick" on the original Melbourne label. (National Herbarium of New South Wales image)

**Table 2. Plant specimens collected by Thomas Reedy in 1875**

| Taxa | Source | Reedy's No. | Collection Location |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Acanthaceae** | | | |
| *Acanthus ilicifolius* L. | Mueller 1875, p 12. | s.n. | Binaturi River |
| **Anacardiaceae** | | | |
| *Semecarpus* | Mueller 1875, p 13 †7 | | |
| *Semecarpus australiensis* Engl. | MEL2245774A | 3 | Great Palm I. |
| **Apocynaceae** | | | |
| *Dischidia major* (Vahl) Merr. | *D. timorensis* Mueller 1875, p 12. | s.n. | |
| *Dischidia nummularia* R.Br. | Mueller 1875, p 12. | s.n. | PNG |
| *Hoya australis* R.Br. ex J. Traill | MEL710659A | s.n. | |
| **Araliaceae** | | | |
| *Panax* L. | Mueller 1875, p 13 †7 | | |
| **Arecaceae** | | | |
| *Arenga microcarpa* Becc. | MEL2067107A; Dowe 2007 | 48 | Binaturi River |
| *Caryota rumphiana* Mart. | MEL2067113A; Dowe 2007 | 143 | Ethel River |
| *Licuala* Thunb. | Mueller 1875, p 13 †7 & Dowe 2007 | | |
| *Ptychosperma macarthurii* (H.Wendl. ex H.J.Veitch) H.Wendl. ex Hook.f. | MEL2067108A; Dowe 2007 | 36 | Binaturi River |
| **Aspleniaceae** | | | |
| *Asplenium laserpitifolium* Lam. | Mueller 1875, p 15. | s.n. | Hall Sound mainland & Binaturi River |
| *Asplenium polyodon* G.Forst. | *A. falcatum* Mueller 1875, p 16. | s.n. | Binaturi River |
| **Asteraceae** | | | |
| *Pluchea indica* (L.) Less. | Mueller 1875, p 10. | s.n. | Binaturi River |
| **Boraginaceae** | | | |
| *Heliotropium foertherianum* Diane & Hilger | *Tournefortia argentea* Mueller 1875, p 11. | s.n. | Binaturi River, Yule I. & Torre Strait Is. |
| *Heliotropium sarmentosum (Lam.) Craven* | *T. sarmentosa* Mueller 1875, p 11. | s.n. | Hall Sound mainland & Darnley I. |
| **Calophyllaceae** | | | |
| *Calophyllum* L. | Mueller 1875, p 13 †7 | | |
| **Capparaceae** | | | |
| *Capparis quiniflora* DC. | MEL2085336A | 72 | Binaturi River & Sue I. |
| **Casuarinaceae** | | | |
| *Casuarina equisetifolia* L. | MEL2091863A | 154 | Coconut I. |
| **Costaceae** | | | |
| *Tapeinochilos ananassae* (Hassk.) K.Schum. | *T. pungens* Mueller 1875, p 13. | s.n. | Binaturi River |
| **Cycadaceae** | | | |
| *Cycas* L. | Mueller 1875, p 13 †7 | | |
| **Elaeocarpaceae** | | | |
| *Elaeocarpus arnhemicus* F.Muell. | MEL68069A type of *Elaeocarpus reedyi* F.Muell. [Mueller 1875, p6 & *E. reedyi* Mueller 1888, p 175.] | 128 | Yule I. |
| *Elaeocarpus arnhemicus* F.Muell. | MEL68068A; Holotype of *E. reedyi* F.Muell. | s.n. | Yule I. |
| **Euphorbiaceae** | | | |
| *Macaranga tanarius* (L.) Mull.Arg. | *Mappa tanaria* Mueller 1875, p 7. | s.n. | Hall Sound mainland & Darnley I. |
| ***Fabaceae*** | | | |
| *Acacia* Mill. | MEL2046562A | 137 | Ethel River |
| *Acacia* Mill. | Mueller 1875, p 13 †7 | | |
| *Acacia holosericea* A.Cunn. ex G.Don | MEL2046542A; Mueller 1877, p 103 | 31 | Binaturi & Ethel Rivers |

| Taxa | Source | Reedy's No. | Collection Location |
|---|---|---|---|
| *Archidendron grandiflorum* (Sol. ex Benth.) I.C.Nielsen | MEL79994A | 90 | Yule I. |
| *Inocarpus fagifer* (Parkinson) Fosberg | MEL898A | 93 | Yule I. |
| *Inocarpus fagifer* (Parkinson) Fosberg | MEL2368394A | 93 | Yule I. |
| *Intsia bijuga* (Colebr.) Kuntze | MEL624741 | s.n. | PNG |
| *Lysiphyllum hookeri* (F.Muell.) Pedley | MEL69818A | 124 | Ethel River |
| *Tephrosia purpurea* (L.) Pers. | MEL99333A | 66 | Hall Sound mainland & Darnley I. |
| **Goodeniaceae** | | | |
| *Scaevola* L. nom. cons. | Mueller 1875, p 13 †7 | | |
| **Lamiaceae** | | | |
| *Clerodendrum inerme* (L.) Gaertn. | *Clerodendron inerme* Mueller 1875, p 11. | s.n. | Binaturi River |
| *Premna serratifolia* L. | *Premna integrifolia* Mueller 1875, p 12. | s.n. | Binaturi River & Torre Strait Is. |
| *Vitex trifolia* L. | MEL97875A; Mueller 1875, p 11. | s.n. | Binaturi River |
| **Lauraceae** | | | |
| *Cryptocarya murrayi* F.Muell. | MEL623985A | 1 | Great Palm I. |
| *Endiandra glauca* R.Br. | MEL2091917A | 145 | Ethel River |
| **Lecythidaceae** | | | |
| *Barringtonia asiatica* (L.) Kurz | *B. speciosa* Mueller 1875, p 9. | s.n. | Binaturi River |
| **Malvaceae** | | | |
| *Abutilon indicum* (L.) Sweet | MEL649429; Mueller 1876, p 55 | | Darnley I. |
| *Heritiera littoralis* Aiton | MEL299961A | 44 | Binaturi River |
| *Thespesia populneoides* (Roxb.) Kostel. | MEL2222376A | 17 | Cape Grenville |
| **Meliaceae** | | | |
| *Aglaia elaeagnoidea* (A.Juss.) Benth. | MEL118600A | 13 | Cape Grenville |
| *Aglaia elaeagnoidea* (A.Juss.) Benth. | MEL593377A | 29 | Binaturi River |
| *Aglaia elaeagnoidea* (A.Juss.) Benth. | MEL118709A; [Macarthur given under collector] | s.n. | Brook I. |
| *Dysoxylon* Blume | Mueller 1875, p 13 †7 | | |
| *Heritiera littoralis* Aiton | *H. litoralis* Mueller 1875, p 6. | s.n. | Hall Sound mainland & Binaturi River |
| **Menispermaceae** | | | |
| *Pachygone ovata* (Poir.) Miers ex Hook.f. & Thomson | Engler 1910, p 246. | | Binaturi River |
| **Moraceae** | | | |
| *Ficus* L. | Mueller 1875, p 13 †7 | | |
| *Ficus prasinicarpa* Elmer | MEL2088256A | 53 | Binaturi River |
| *Ficus prasinicarpa* Elmer | MEL2088258A | s.n. | |
| *Ficus tinctoria* G.Forst. | NSW303018 | 142 | Ethel River |
| **Myrtaceae** | | | |
| *Corymbia papuana* (F.Muell.) K.D.Hill & L.A.S.Johnson | Holotype MEL; Iso. NSW; *Eucalyptus papuana* Mueller 1875 p 8. | 139 | Ethel River |
| *Eucalyptus* L'Her. | Mueller 1875, p 9. †1 | | |
| *Eugenia L.* | MEL2355171A | 106 | Yule I. |
| *Rhodamnia fordii* N.Snow | MEL2063940A | 157 | Somerset |
| *Rhodomyrtus macrocarpa* Benth. | MEL2194088A | 12 | Cape Grenville |
| *Welchiodendron longivalve* (F.Muell.) Peter G.Wilson & J.T.Waterh. | MEL2193313A | 15 | Cape Grenville |
| **Oleaceae** | | | |
| *Jasminum didymum* G.Forst. | MEL628125A | 125 | Hall Sound mainland |

| Taxa | Source | Reedy's No. | Collection Location |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Orchidaceae** | | | |
| *Dendrobium rigidum* R.Br. | MEL624409A | s.n. | Somerset & PNG |
| *Spathoglottis plicata* Blume | MEL625947A; *S. Pauline* Mueller 1876-77, p 64. | Unknown | Cape Grenville |
| *Spathoglottis plicata* Blume | MEL625946A; *S. Pauline* Mueller 1876-77, p 64. | 19 | Cape Grenville |
| *Vappodes bigibba* (Lindl. & Paxton) M.A.Clem. & D.L.Jones | MEL624057A | 20 | Cape Grenville |
| *x Vappaculum x superbiens (Rchb.f.) M.A.Clem. & D.L.Jones* | MEL 624455A; *Dendrobium superbiens* Mueller 1878-81, p 22. | 21 | Cape Grenville |
| *x Vappaculum x superbiens* (Rchb.f.) M.A.Clem. & D.L.Jones | MEL624456A; *D. superbiens* Mueller 1878-81, p 22. | s.n. | Somerset [Macarthur given under collector] |
| **Pedaliaceae** | | | |
| *Josephinia imperatricis* Vent. | MEL68551A | 57 | Binaturi River |
| **Phyllanthaceae** | | | |
| *Phyllanthus amarus Schumach.* | *Phyllanthus niruri* Mueller 1877, p 87. | s.n. | Darnley I. |
| **Pittosporaceae** | | | |
| *Pittosporum* Banks ex Gaertn. | Mueller 1875, p 13 †7 | | |
| *Pittosporum ferrugineum* Dryand. ex W.T.Aiton | MEL2112941A | 69 | Yule I. |
| **Polypodiaceae** | | | |
| *Microsorum punctatum (L.) Copel.* | *Polypodium punctatum* Mueller 1875, p 15. | s.n. | Hall Sound mainland |
| *Pyrrosia longifolia* (Burm.f.) C.V.Morton | MEL2147094A [via Macarthur] | | Somerset |
| **Proteaceae** | | | |
| *Darlingia darlingiana* (F.Muell.) L.A.S.Johnson | MEL2170013A; *D. spectatissima* Mueller 1876-77, p 90. | 8 | Fitzroy I. |
| *Grevillea pteridifolia* Knight | MEL2175011A | 18 | Cape Grenville |
| **Pteridaceae** | | | |
| *Adiantum aethiopicum* L. | Mueller 1875, p 15. | s.n. | Hall Sound mainland |
| *Pteris tripartita* Sw. | Mueller 1875, p 16. | s.n. | Darnley I. |
| *Pteris vittata* L. | *Pteris longifolia* Mueller 1875, p 16. | s.n. | Yule I. |
| **Rhamnaceae** | | | |
| *Colubrina asiatica* (L.) Brongn. | Mueller 1875, p 7. | s.n. | Binaturi River & Sue I. |
| **Rubiaceae** | | | |
| *Aidia racemosa* (Cav.) Tirveng. | *Randia densiflora* Mueller 1876, p 25 | s.n. | Binaturi River |
| *Gardenia* L.T.Ellis | Mueller 1875, p 13 †7 | | |
| *Hydnophytum moseleyanum Becc.* | *Hydnophytum formicarum* (?) Mueller 1875, p 10. †4 | | |
| *Morinda citrifolia* L. (?) | Mueller 1875, p 10. †2 | | |
| *Myrmecodia echinata* F.Muell. (?) | Mueller 1875, p 10. †3 | | |
| *Premna callicarpa* (?) | Mueller 1875, p 12 †5 | | |
| *Scyphiphora hydrophylacea* C.F.Gaertn. | Mueller 1875, p 10. | s.n. | Binaturi River |
| *Tarenna dallachiana* (F.Muell. ex Benth.) S.Moore | MEL1553931A | 4 | Great Palm I. |
| **Santalaceae** | | | |
| *Exocarpos latifolius* R.Br. | *Exocarpus latifolia* Mueller 1875, p 10. | s.n. | Binaturi River & Yule I. |
| **Sapindaceae** | | | |
| *Guioa coriacea (Radlk.) Radlk.* | *Cupania* Mueller 1875, p 13 †7 | | |
| *Jagera pseudorhus* (A.Rich.) Radlk. | MEL108736A | 7 | Great Palm I. |

| Taxa | Source | Reedy's No. | Collection Location |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Sapotaceae** | | | |
| *Manilkara* Adans. | *Achras* sp. Mueller 1875, p 13 †7 | | |
| **Tectariaceae** | | | |
| *Christella dentata* (Forssk.) Brownsey & Jermy | *Aspidium molle* Mueller 1875, p 15. | s.n. | Hall Sound mainland |
| **Dicot. indet**. | | | |
| | MEL2052002A | 132 | Ethel River |
| **FUNGI** | | | |
| *Microxyphiella fuligo* (Berk. & Desm.) Speg. 1918 | Mueller 1876, p 82. | s.n. | Binaturi River |

The available data dictates the taxonomic rank given; where possible scientific names and authorities follow CHAH (2015). The heading "Source" refers to the origin of the data used to identify a Reedy collection. Where applicable this is annotated with the name of the species used in that source, e.g., *Corymbia papuana* is given in its source as *Eucalyptus papuana* Mueller 1875 p 8. Collection locations were deduced in this study using the diaries of the *Chevert* expeditioners and the published literature, especially Mueller's *Descriptive Notes on Papuan Plants I* (1875). Reedy's numbering system follows the sequential order relating to the order that plants were collected—from 1 to 157. The maximum quantity of plants collected remains unknown. In the absence of a Reedy number, sheets in the National Herbarium of Victoria (MEL) were annotated "s.n." (*sine numero*, meaning without number).

The superscripts refer to notes in Mueller's 1875 publication relating to Reedy's specimens. Mueller felt that some material supplied by Reedy was insufficient to confidently name or describe—these notes are as follows: †1 leaves only seen, *E*. sp. found with *E*. papuana; similar to *E*. *platyphylla*; †2 leaves only, probably *M. citrifolia*; †3 leaves only, probably *Myrmecodia echinata*; †4 leaves only, probably *Hydnophytum*; †5 and several other Rubiaceous plants; †6 In Mueller's *Premna integrifolia* "The leaves of a *Callicarpa* are also contained in the collection."; †7 In Mueller's *Tapeinochilos pungens* "Reedy's collection contains also plants of the genera…[list given], but not in a state to determine their precise specific position".

## Conclusion

Reedy's specimens now surviving in herbaria, and the specimens accounted for here, are only the dried preserved specimens collected by the expedition, and not the "800 to 1000 living plants" brought back (Macarthur 1875). Reedy's numbers suggest that about 157 (or a few more) dried specimens were collected given that number 157 was collected at Somerset on the return journey. Of the 157 specimens many are lost or missing. Macarthur was deeply involved in horticultural activities and Reedy's living specimens were collected with this in mind. Reedy probably did collect plants at every terrestrial stop, and the 800–1,000 living plants referred to by Macarthur were probably not sent to herbaria but to Camden Park, botanic gardens and horticulturalists. A search along these lines will probably find more history relating to Reedy's specimens.

With regard to biogeographical theories, Macleay (1875b) noted the striking similarity of the shared avifauna—not only between New Guinea and Australia, but between New Guinea and Micronesia. He also noted the shared mammalian fauna of New Guinea and Australia, being predominately marsupial (Macleay 1875b; Fulton 2012). Likewise Mueller developed similar biogeographical themes based on Reedy's collections noting shared genera and species: for example *Dischidia nummularia* and *Exocarpos latifolius* are species shared by Australia and New Guinea (Frodin 1990). Mueller (1875–77) opened his first plant description, that of *Capparis quiniflora*, with "The New Guinea plant cannot be distinguished from the Australian typical species." Yet the most striking example being *Corymbia papuana*, the type collected by Reedy near the Ethel River. Mueller (1875-77) in opening his *Descriptive Notes on Papuan Plants* described New Guinea as one of the largest islands on the globe, which rivalled Britain in extent yet remained poorly known. He acknowledged that exploration would gradually withdraw the veil by which it has so long been concealed. Reedy's specimens were among the first from southern New Guinea to be examined by Mueller and were important in opening a narrative on the flora of the region. Mueller subsequently named *Elaeocarpus reedyi* in commemoration of Reedy's contribution, but alas it was a synonym of *Elaeocarpus arnhemicus* F.Muell. (Mueller 1888, p 175).

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