REPORT

<u>0 N</u>

CARNAC ISLAND

S U R V E Y.

1955 - 1956.

(Compiled by Bruce Phillips.)

CARNAC ISLAND

Carnac Island is situated at approximately thirty-four degrees latitude south, and is positioned about eight and a half miles from the mainland, approximately two and a quarter miles from Garden Island between Garden and Rottnest Island.

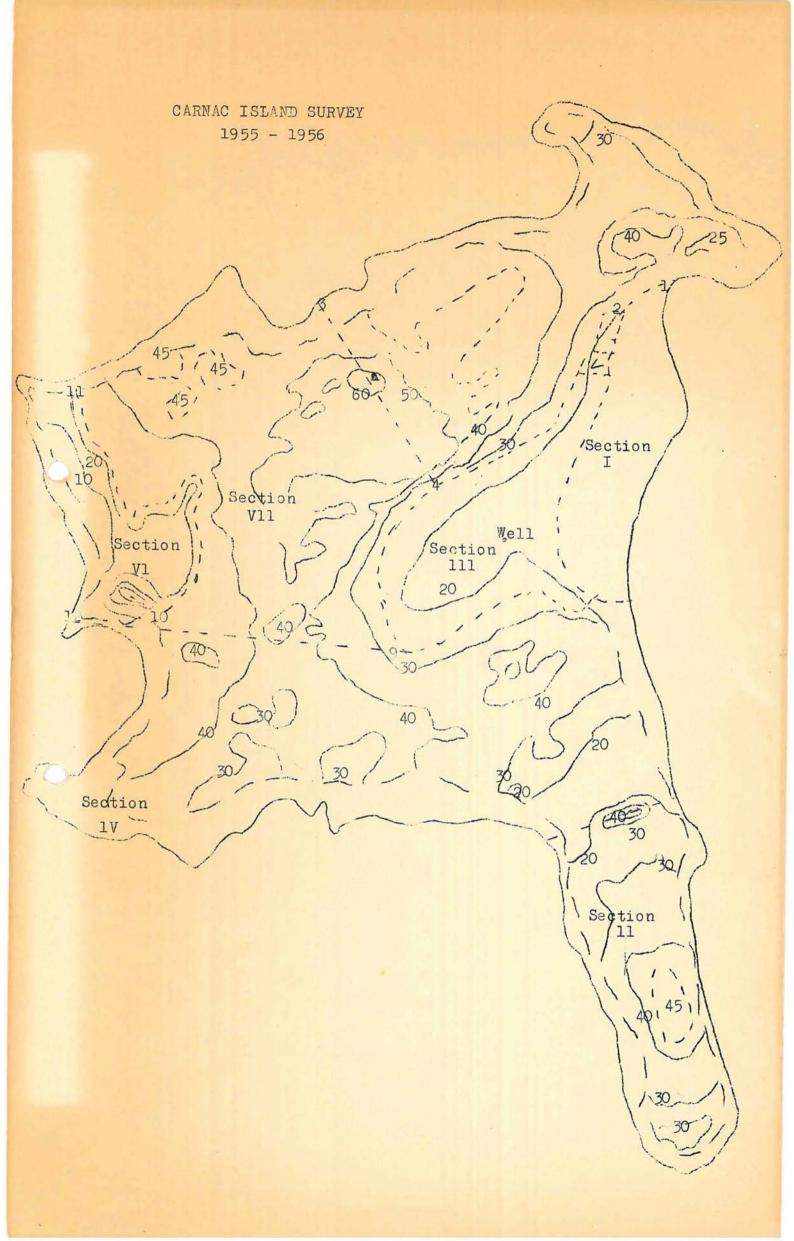
It is the smallest of the three islands off our coast, and occupies an area of approximately thirty-eight and a half acres.

Its choice for survey was made; due to comparatively virgin fauna, having never been opened up to tourists, and due to it possessing an almost exact quantity, for the purpose, of reefs and land surfaces.

We have used as our object the presentation of a ground-work in ecology of the island, to which further studies of the island will enlarge into something of lasting value.

The attempt has been to exactly record notes upon all dominent species of land and marine forms; and it is our unanimous hope that this work may be continued both by ourselves, and others after us.

B.Phillips.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

Department of Fauna and Fisheries, especially Mr. Frazer, and the skipper of the "Silver Gull," the Government Patrol Vessel so kindly lent to supply the party's vessel.

The Harbour and Lights Department.

The Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organis-

The University, which so kindly sponsored the expedition, with many thanks to Dr. Hodgkin who sided us in many ways.

The Licensee of Carnac Island Mr. Mews, who allowed our survey.

The W.A. Naturalist Club which supported us and from which most of our members were drawn.

H I S T O R I C A L

DATA.

by

B.Phillips.

HISTORICAL DATA

Originally named Berthollet by the French expedition under FREYCINET, it was named Carnac Island by Captain Stirling after his first Lieutenant John Rivett Canac.

From "Swan River" Volume 17 we find that on 2nd June 1829 John Margin landed with 28 people including his family upon the sand spit now removed. This landing was caused by the necessity to lighten the "Success" and they remained here for five days before finally settling at Garden Island. This gives Carnac the honour of receiving the first settlers and also the first family settler.

In 1838 the Government declared the island to be used as a native prison; together with an attempt to gain a knowledge of the natives.

The settlement consisted of Mr. Lyon who was in charge, the three natives Yagen, Danmera and Ningina and two soldiers.

The settlement was made in October but only lasted until November of the same year, as the soldiers disliking their solitary existency aided the prisoners to escape.

In 1882 the "Enquirer" on 4th October P. 302. records the visit of a party to the island for the purpose of shooting rabbits for sport.

On 8/9/*84 the Government Gazette Page 160, proclaimed Carnac Island as the quarantine station and later in the same year alocated £900 to be spent on buildings there.

In 1917 from maps from the Department of Interior, we observe two huts in Section III and a lighthouse beacon in Section V.

HISTORICAL DATA CONCLUSIONS.

Information gained from this data and further research:

We note in 1829 the presence of a sand spit on the east side of the island now almost disappeared, at the period of our visit, although it was still there in 1817 by reference to the map.

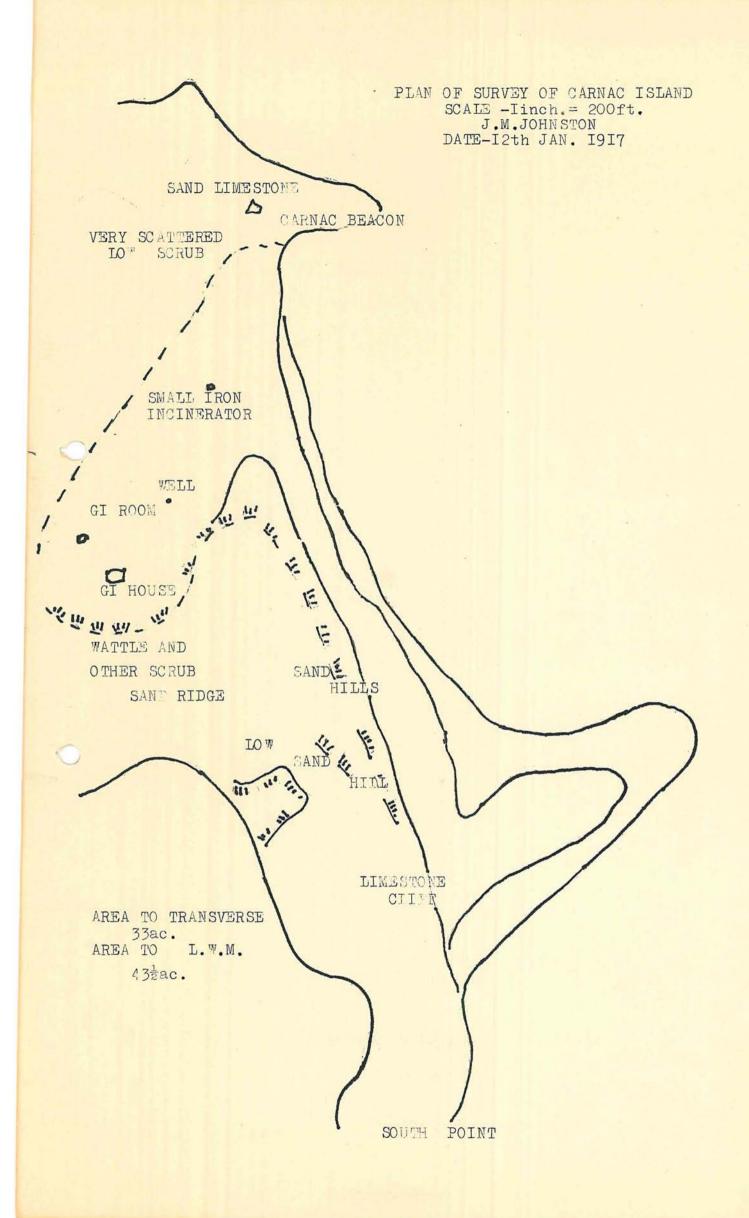
We note the former presence of rabbits on the island at least in 1882, non-existant today as far as explored.

Joe Hope former surveyor for the Department of Interior and preparer of the recent map of Carnac records in 1944:-

That the grassy area of Section III of the 1917 map was still largely apparent, while today this area is largely overgrown with scrub.

This rate of this growth can be gauged, by the fact that the well, now overgrown with dead remains and living matted acacia, was in 1944 surrounded by a clear area and the nearest vegetation was approximately twelve feet away and composed of grasses.

No reason is yet advanced except perhaps fire, although not yet proven, for the presence of now dead aca is of a heavy luxurient growth in 1944.



BIRDS,

THE BIRDS OF CARNAC ISLAND, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

by

J. A. L. Watson.

The bird fauna of Carnac Island has hitherto been little reported. Serventy (1938), in a paper on the land birds of Garden, Carnac and Rottnest Islands, listed the known species but apart from incidental references (Alexander, 1921; Serventy, 1948; Serventy and Whittell, 1951), no survey of the seabirds has been published. The observations in this account are mainly those made during January, 1956, supplemented with notes compiled by B. Phillips, D.L. Serventy and G.M. Storr during other visits to the island.

The physiography and geology of Carnac Island are discussed by McArthur (1957) in a paper dealing primarily with the plant ecology of the islands off Fremantle, and by Tiller elsewhere in this report. Having a small area and a uniform topography, the surface of Carnac (with the exception of portions of the limestone cliffs) is exposed to sever wind action, particularly from This severity of wind action and the close proximity to the sea on all sides restricts the vegetation to a scrub of predominantly "sand dune" type (see Smith, 1957). On the western and southern areas of the island (Sections II, IV, V, VI, VII), the scrub is low and, agart from larger bushes of Olearia axillaris and isolated areas of wind-burnt Acacia cyclopis, the major part of the cover is close to the ground. The predominant plants are Scaevola crassifolia, Tetragonia spp., Suaeda maritima, Carpobrotus equilaterus, Rhagodia baccata, Calocephalus brownii and Lepidosperma gladiatum, with Nitraria schoberi on the northern talus slopes and a characteristic dense association of Frankenia pauciflora and Rhagodia baccata on the southern peninsula (Section II). However, adjoining the eastern beach and around the site of the old well there is a restricted area of dense Acacia rostellifera - Olearia axillaris thicket with trees, in places, up to ten to fifteen feet in height. This thicket is interspersed with Acacia cyclopis and shows a gradual transition at its margin to the typical Oleania scrub.

The island lacks any natural fresh water. However, a shallow timbered soak behind the eastern beach contained water during the period of the survey but, as the soak was uncovered, it probably silts up in winter. The water level showed tidal variation but the water was fresh.

The small size, the insularity and the exposure of the island are reflected in the bird fauna. Of a total of thirty three species recorded to date, eleven are land birds, eleven seabirds, ten wading birds and one an aerial vagrant, the Fork-tailed Swift. Of the eleven land birds, probably only four species are resident (in the sense of breeding on the island), the remaining seven being irregular visitors. By contrast, there are ten species of sea birds known to breed on Rottnest and at least sixteen resident land birds, excluding waterfowl, introduced game birds and two species which probably no longer occur on the island - the Bronzewing Pigeon (Phaps sp.) and a quail. (G.M. Storr, pers. comm.) Carnac, however, is noteworthy as the only area of overlap between the breeding ranges of the Little Penguin (northern limit of range) and the Wedge-tailed Shearwater (southern limit of range).

The species of birds recorded from Carnac are set out in the table below. The names in general are those given by Serventy and Whittell (1951) and the authorities are taken from the R.A.O.U. Checklist (1926).

TABLE 1. SPECIES OF BIRDS RECORDED FROM CARNAC ISLAND.

Abbreviations: B = breeding bird. M = migrant.
R = resident land bird.
S = sea bird. V = vagrant. W = wading bird. 1. Alexander (1921). Recorders: Serventy, D.L. and Jenkins, C.F.H., 19.IX.1934. 2. 3. Royal Society of Western Australia Excursion, 30.III.1935. 4. Serventy, D.L. and Serventy, V.N., 15.II.1951. 5. Watson, J.A.L. January, 1956. Phillips, B. 10.III.1956. 6. " 4.XI.1956... 7. Watson, J.A.L. 22.II.1957. 8. Storr, G.M. 30.III.1958. 9.

No.	SPECIES	STATUS	RECORDERS
1.	SPHENISCIFORMES. <u>Eudyptula minor</u> (Forster). <u>Little Penguin.</u>	S.B.	3, 5.
2.	PROCELLARIIFORMES. Puffinus pacificus (Gmelin). Wedge-tailed Shearwater.	S.B.	1, 3, 4, 5, 9.
3.	PELECANIFORMES. Phalacrocorax varius (Gmelin) Pied Cormorant.	S.B.	2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9.
4.	LARIFORMES. Hydroprogne caspia (Pallas). Caspian Tern.	S.B?	5, 8.
5.	Sterna bergii Lichtenstein. Crested Tern.	S.B?	2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9.
6.	Sterna nereis (Gould). Fairy Tern.	S.B.	4, 5, 8.
7.	Sterna anaetheta Scopoli Bridled Tern.	S.B.	1, 4, 5, 8.
8.	Larus novae-hollandiae Stephens Silver Gull.	S.B.	2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9.
9.	Gabianus pacificus (Latham) Pacific Gull.	s.	3.
10.	CHARADRIIFORMES. Arenaria interpres (Linne) Turnstone.	W.M.	5, 8, 9.
11.	Hacmatopus ostralegus Linne Pied Oystercatcher.	W.B?	2, 5.
t2.	Haematopus fuliginosus Gould Sooty Oystercatcher.	W.B?	5.
1.5,	Squatarola squatarola Linne Grey Plover.	W.M.	5, 8.
L4.	Charadrius ruficapillus Temminck and Red-capped Dotterel. Laugier	W.B?	5, 9.
15.	Cladorhynchus leucocephalus (Vieillot) Banded Stilt	W.M.	5
16.	Numenius phaeopus (Linne)	W.M.	5

Whimbrel.

17.	Tringa brevipes (Vieillot) Grey-tailed Tattler.	W.M.	9.
18.	Tringa hypoleucos Linne Common Sandpiper.	W.M.	3, 4, 5, 8, 9.
19.	Erolia ruficollis (Pallas) Little Stint.	W.M.	4, 5, 9.
20.	ARDEIFORMES. Demigretta sacra (Gmelin) Reef Heron.	W.B?	5.
21.	ACCIPITRIFORMES. Haliastur sphenurus (Vieillot) Whistling Eagle .	٧.	5.
22.	Falco cenchroides Vigors and Horsfield Kestrel.	V.	2.
23.	Pandion haliaëtus (Linne) Osprey.	٧.	9.
24.	STRIGIFORMES. Tyto sp. Barn Owl.	٧.	3.
25.	PSITTACIFORMES. Neophema petrophila Gould Rock Parrot.	٧?	9.
26.	CORACIIFORMES. Halcyon sanctus Vigors and Horsfield Sacred Kingfisher.	V.M.	3, 5, 9.
27.	Micropus pacificus (Latham) Fork-tailed Swift.	V.M.	5.
28.	PASSERIFORMES. Hirundo neoxena Gould Welcome Swallow.	R.B?	3, 4, 5, 8, 9.
29.	Hylochelidon nigricans (Vieillot) Tree Martin.	Λ.	5.
30.	Rhipidura leucophrys (Latham) Black and White Fantail.	R.B.	2, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9.
31.	Eopsaltria griseogularis Gould Western Yellow Robin.	V.	5.
32.	Zosterops australasiae (Vieillot) Silvereye.	R.B.	2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9.
33.	Corvus coronoides Vigors and Horsfield Raven.	R.B?	2, 5, 6, 8, 9.

Notes on Individual Species.

1. Eudyptula minor, Little Penguin.

Both adults and young showed nocturnal activity above ground during early January, 1956. By the end of January, most of the old birds had left the island but the young were still swimming at night in the sheltered bays. There was evidently considerable mortality among both young and adult birds during the breeding season but one fully fledged chick showed no signs of parasite infestation when examined shortly after death.

2. Puffinus pacificus, Wedge-tailed Shearwater.

The approximate distribution of burrows of this species at the time of the survey is shown in the map, but some of the burrows, probably originally excavated by Shearwaters, were then occupied by Penguins. No census was taken. During the survey, all burrows investigated contained either an egg or a small chick. D.L. Serventy recorded "half-grown young" on 11.II.1951

and on 30.III.1958 G.M. Storr noted that the chicks were fat and downy, but were not leaving the burrows at night.

The guano mound at the mouth of one burrow (under the travertime on the southern peninsula) was found to contain both sexes of a flea of the genus Parapsyllus but none of these parasites was recovered from the birds themselves. A small hippoboscid fly was also seen on one bird but attempts to collect these insects failed.

3. Phalacrocorax varius, Pied Cormorant.

No nesting activity was recorded in January, 1956, although one shattered egg was found in a dune on the northwestern corner of the island. On 30.III.1958, approximately fifty pairs were commencing to breed on Flat Rock (G.M. Storr).

6. Sterna nereis, Fairy Tern.

No breeding congresses of this species have been recorded from Carnac. However, one bird was observed with an egg on an exposed rock platform on 9.I.1956 but the egg was deserted shortly afterwards.

7. Sterna anaetheta, Bridled Torn.

Large numbers nest in crannies in the cliffs both of the main island and also the subsidiary islets. Many young birds were in the late down - early feather stage at the time of the survey, although one egg and two newly hatched birds were located. Breeding birds were also present on 2.II.1957 (J.A.L.W.) and 11.II.1951 (D.L.S.), but not on 30.III.1935 (D.L.S.) or 30.III.1958 (G.M.S.).

8. Larus novae-hollandiac, Silver Gull.

Gulls have been recorded nesting in the period September - January, with eggs and young on 19.IX.1934 (D.L.S.) and many fully fledged young in January, 1956. On 11.II.1951, no occupied nests were recorded (D.L.S.) and there was no breeding in progress on 30.III.1958 (G.M.S.).

10-19. Wading Birds.

A mixed flock of waders was present during the entire survey period, feeding either on the exposed reef flats or on the bank of <u>Fosidonia</u> on the eastern beach. <u>Arenaria interpres</u>, the Turnstone, and <u>Erolia ruficapillus</u>, the <u>Little Stint</u>, were the most numerous species. A flock of <u>Cladorhynchus leucocephalus</u>, the Banded Stilt, was intermittently present during this time, the birds feeding inshore in the eastern bay but, on disturbance, flying out and alighting on deeper water. The flock contained many young birds, the young: adult ratio being approximately 2: 1.

20. <u>Demigretta sacra</u>, Reef Heron.

All individuals of this species recorded were of the dark grey phase. Between one and three birds were recorded almost daily by survey members.

27. Micropus pacificus, Fork-tailed Swift.

Two influxes of Swifts were recorded during the survey. On 1.I.1956, only a few birds were present but between 21-25.I.1956, larger parities were observed. On 25.I.1956, following strong easterly winds and high temperatures, a large flock built up on the western lee of the island, the birds flying in from the east and north and out towards the south. Associated with the Swifts were large numbers of the dragonflies Anax papuensis (Burm.) and Hemicordulia tau Selva, but the Swifts appeared to be feeding mainly on smaller insects above the dragonfly flock although some Hemicordulia were taken. This second irruption was probably continuous with that mentioned by Ford (1958).

28. Hirundo neoxena, Welcome Swallow.

One of the commonest of the land birds, which almost certainly breeds under the limestone cliffs although no nests have been recorded.

30. Rhipidura leucophrys, Black and White Fantail.

Two pairs of adults were present in January, 1956, together with at

least two young. No nests were located, but the adults were seen chasing the young near the campaite. This species is the only land bird resident at Carnac which is not also resident on Rottnest. It is common on Garden Island.

32. Zosterops australasiae, Silvereye.

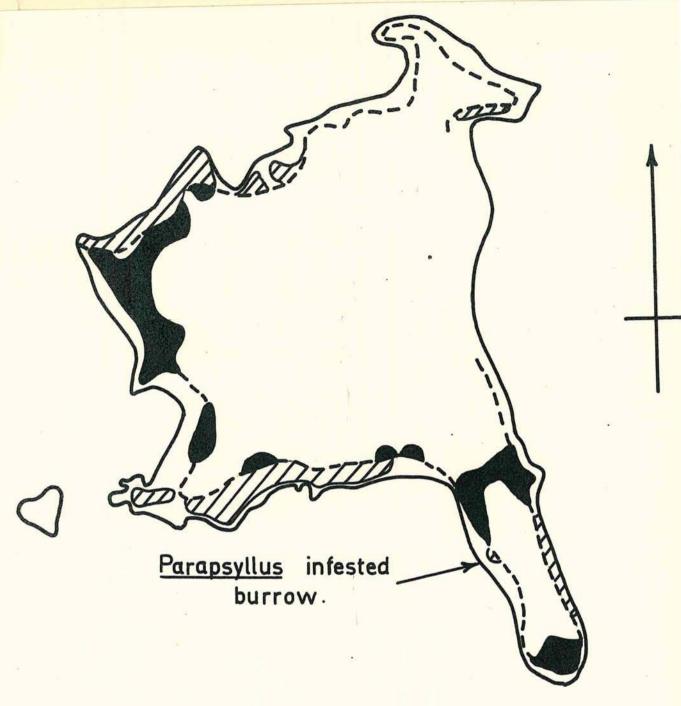
During the survey period, this species was the commonest land bird on the island, with the greatest concentration of numbers in the <u>Acacia</u> thickes around the campsite. The birds made abundant use of the soak for drinking and bathing (see photograph) and were feeding on seeds of <u>Acacia</u> and grasses together with insects both from the ground and from the <u>Acacia</u>.

33. Corvus coronoides. Raven.

A large deserted nest, possibly that of a Raven, was collected from a dead <u>Acacia rostellifera</u> on 6.1.1956 (see photograph). There is no other evidence to confirm that the birds are resident, although they have been recorded regularly.

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APPROXIMATE DISTRIBUTION OF SHEARWATER BURROWS, CARNAC ISLAND, JAN., 1956.







ENTOMOLOGY.

REFORT ON TERRESTRIAL ARTHROFODA COLLECTED ON CARNAC ISLAND, JANUARY, 1956

by

J.A.L. Watson

The identification of terrestrial arthropods collected on Carnac Island during January, 1956, is still incomplete and no comprehensive account can yet be given. However, notes on some groups may be included with these reports.

1. As Carnac lacks any permanent fresh water and hence, breeding sites for freshwater insects, the dragonfly fauna is restricted to forms which range wide from water. Although the number of dragonflies around the island was, at times, very large, the insects were not present continuously during the survey. The numbers occurring appeared to be related in part to the prevailing winds, with the largest numbers after periods of strong easterlies. The two species most frequently observed were the common Australian wide forms Anax papuensis (Burm) (Aeshnidae)

and Hemicordulia tau Selys (Corduliidae), both of which are well known wanderers.

Other species recorded were:-

Aeshna brevistyla Rambur (Aeshnidae)
Diplacodes bipunctata (Brauer) (Libellulidae)
Austrothemis nigrescens (Martin) (Libellulidae)
Ischnura aurora (Brauer) (Coenagriidae)
Zanthagrion erythroneurum Selys (Coenagriidae)

- 2. On 19.1.58 a single specimen of a water boatman, probably a species of Porocorika (Corixidae), was seen at the light but was subsequently lost. This record, following several days of prolonged easterly winds, serves to emphasize the ease with which many flying insects can cross to the island.
- 5. The parasites found in association with the shearwaters have been discussed in the band report above (q.v.)
- 4. No Cicadidae have been recorded from Carnac, either during the survey or on a visit made on 22.II.1957.
- 5. The two species of Acacia on the island, A. cyclopis and A. rostellifera, were found to support different insect faunas. Samples were taken by shaking the foliage into a calico net and preserving the entire sample of material. The numbers of insects of the dominant species represented are shown in Table 1. The following species were scored:-

Orthodera ministralis Fabr. (Orthoptera - Mantidae)
Sextius depressus Goding ? (Hemiptera - Membracidae)
2 species of psyllids (Hemiptera - Psyllidae)
Catasarcus spinifennis Tho. (Coleoptera - Curculionidae)
Lamosaccus querulus Pasc. (Coleoptera - Curculionidae)
1 small species of curculionid (Coleoptera - Curculionidae).

والماران

DISTRIBUTION OF INSECTS ON TWO SPECIES OF ACACIA

4170	Sampl No.		Species	3	Form	datasarzus	Curxulionid	Lacnosaccus	Payllidae	Sextius	Orthoders	
	1.	Acacia	rostellifera	31-41	high; straggly bush	10	4	-	1	1	1	
	2.		"	2';	young, badly eaten tips	13	1	_	-	1	-	
	3.	11	11	5';	good condition	1	1	1	-	2	-	
	4•	"	TT .	5';	large bush, yellow foliage		1	-	-	1	_	
	5•			3';	spread, good condit- ioh.	3	8	3	2	4	2	
	6.	"	u	31;	small, good condit- ion	20	6	_	-	1	4.	
	7•	11	n	6';	clump of three, good condition	16	3	1	1	4	2	
Canne	13.	"	11	6';	two bushes, good condition.	4?	2	14	1	10	1	
w	nauko enak	TOTAL SAM						19 12		24 16	10	
	8.	Acacia cy	clopis	20'x6'	; in flower, sample incomplete	2			120	erenio piùre rute	6	The second second
	9•	n	11	7'x4';	flowering, wind burnt	_	-	-	100	2	3	
	10.	"	n	8'x3';	flowering, wind burnt	2	_	1	27	2	1	•
	11.	11	D.	20'x7';	no flower, sample incomplete	-	- Land	-	40	2	6	
	12.	"	II.	15'x6';	flowering, good condition.	-		-	45	3	9	
STORY	14.	II Particular de la companya de la comp	II Descriptions	several	bushes involved		_	-		14	2	4
		TOTAL SAI	TOTAL STORY THEORY OF THE SANCTONIA OF	i In the second	ing and the contract of the co	4	- 1	_1,		26		
		FERCENTA	Œ	<u></u>	odisyk canada sensi sse sanose nemekalarnikozinska anokolarisko eko	1			87	6	6	, de

It is clear that there is a preponderance of rayllidae on A. cyclopis and of Curculionidae on A. rostellifera while the proportion of a predutor, Orthodera, is similar in terms of total numbers in the two species.

^{5.} A series of six ghost crabs of the genus Ocypode was collected from burrous at high water mark on the eastern beach. These were all males and had the measurements shown in Table II.

OCYLODE MEASUREMENTS (mm.)

No.	Larger Chela	Lex	rge Chela	Small	Carapace Width	
		Width	Length	Width	Length	y Wilcital
l,	Ler't	24.2	38.2	12.1	24.0	42.7
Sia .	Left	25.5	41.0	13.0	26.3	45.1
<i>3</i> 74	Lei't	22.6	38.3	12.2	24.5	42.8
10	Right	240	37.0	12.5	21,0	42.4
3+	Right	23.1	55.0	11.2	22.6	39.7
J-	Loi't	21.5	33.0	11.2	22.5	39.3

These measurements do not differ significantly from measurements of Rottnes' animals, taken in November, 1955.

Despite the dryness of the soil and leaf litter, soil samples showed the presence of an abundant arthropod fauna, particularly under the Acacia rostellifera thicket. The fauna included Collembola (predominantly Entomobryidea), Thysamura (Lepismatidae bermaptera, Orthoptera (Blattidae), Thysamoptera (Phlocotaripidae), Colcoptera (Carabidae, reselaphidae), Acarina, resendoscorpionida, araneida and Scolpendromorpha (Scolpendridae - Cormoce halus).

(Two other myriapods, probably a lithobiid and a geophilid, were seen but could not be collected).

The collections of terrestrial Arthropoda from Carnac will be lodged in the Western Australian Museum.

GEOLOGY.

GEOLOGY OF CARNAC ISLAND

by

K. Tiller

Carrac Island is situated 32° 7' 12" S by 115° 39' 36" E on the West coast of Australia and lies approximately 5½ mutical miles south-west of Fremantle. Along with Rottnest and Garden Islands this group was originally named "Les Iles Louis Napoleon" by M. Louis Freycinet. This has now been displaced by Carrac Island.

The rocky island of Carmac is only one of a series of rocky ridges or islands and reefs which parallel the coast with a northsouth orientation. The first ridge is the submerged Five Fathom Bank some two and half mutical miles west of Carnac Island with Hawley Shoal, Casuarina Shoal and Seaward Reef as the higher parts of this formation. This ridge begins at Rottnest and continues southward for over 30 mutical miles. The second ridge is represented by a series of islands and headlands represented by Rottnest Island, The Stragglers, Mewstone, Carnac, Garden, Seal and Penguin Islands and the island reduced to mean sea level at the Murray Reef. These remmants very in height with the highest point of 195 feet on Garden Island. The third ridge is now represented by the submerged reef of Entrance Rocks, Beagle Rocks, Minden Reef, Fish Rocks, Woodman's Spit and thence to James Point. This ridge is a more or less continuous reef at varying depths and forms protection for Owen Anchorage and Jervoise Bay. The fourth ridge is a series of hills of coastal limestone running North, and South of Fremantle to Woodman's Point, flanking the eastern side of Cockburn Sound and continues as far south as Mardurah and forms the actual coastline.

These rocky ridges represent the remnant cores of littoral dune ridges wherein false or current bedded coastal limestones have been cemented to form Aeoliamite (Fairbridge, 1950). Fairbridge accounts for the variation of levels as being due to eustatic changes of pre-existing strandlines.

The structural and petrological features of Carnac Is. are similar to those found at Rottnest and at Pt, Peron and the orientation of the major dip of many of the current bedded layers under the continued effect of the dominent S.W. and N.W. winds have determined the present configuration of the island. On the eastern side the cliffing by marine erosion is not so marked because of the lack of reach of the easterlies, while the more exposed westerly side the marine planation has produced the wide reefs and in places has separated the more resistant areas as isolated islets. Under the influence of the strong north-westerlies large erosion indentations occur with marine abrasion attacking more or less parallel to the strike of the dominant layers or strata and so the attack is directed along the bedding planes. The presence of well developed solution pipes which reach well below sea level and which vary from a few inches to many feet in diameter form the major obstacle against the marine erosion from this direction resulting in the spectacular stacks or columns which support the more resistant travertine or capstone in the form of large caverns where wind erosion continues the undersapping of the softer layers.

Deflation by winds of a westerly component particularly those from the south-west have tended to form scour channels in the sandy surface where vegetation has failed to fix the soil cover. Such deflation has reached base level of the travertine or capstone.

Conclusions.

1. That Carnac Island is an erosion remnant of a one-time continuous coastal limestone rampant that lies to the west of the main coastline.

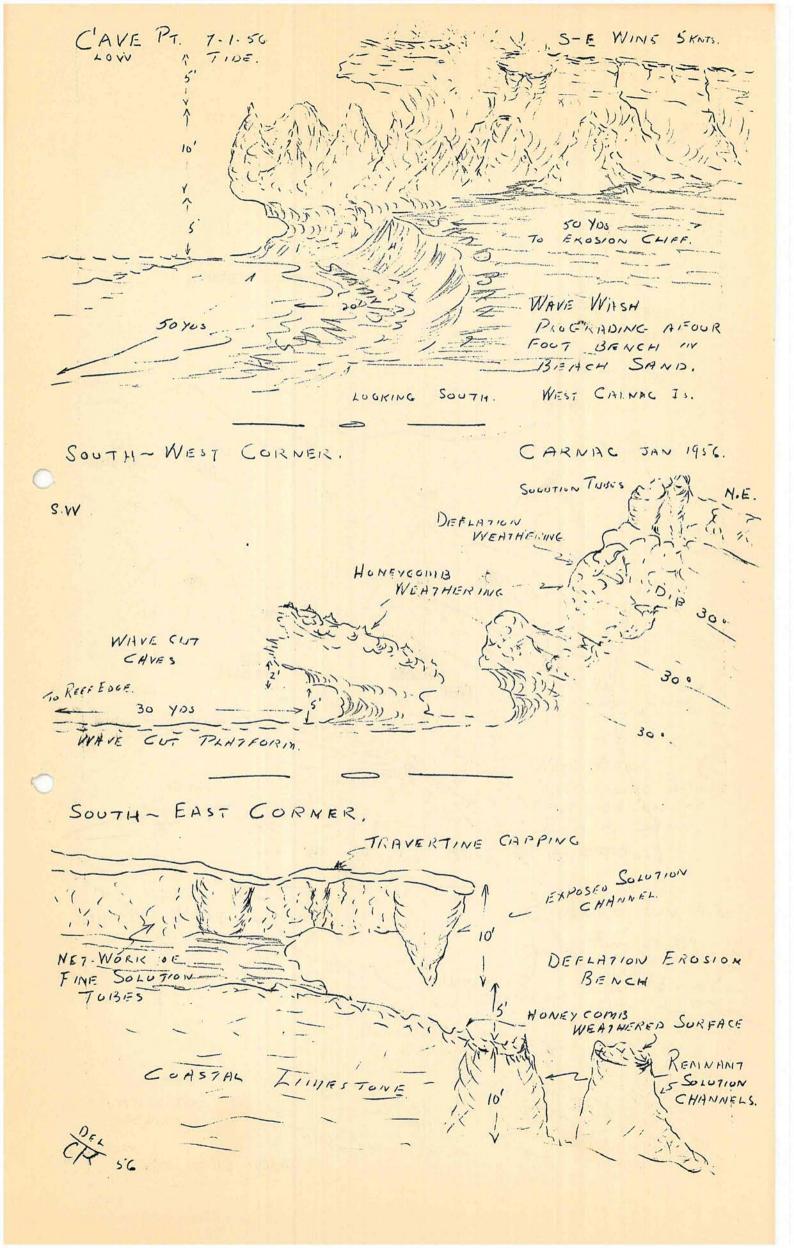
- 2. That the dominant westerlies have been responsible for the marine erosion that has produced the wide reefs and isles on the western margin.
- 3. That the structure and dip of the false or current bedding influences the rate of marine erosion,
- 4. That once a cliff of marine abrasion has been established, wind erosion takes over and by sapping produces the caverns that upon collapsing allow for further reduction of these tumble blocks by wave action under storm conditions.

References:

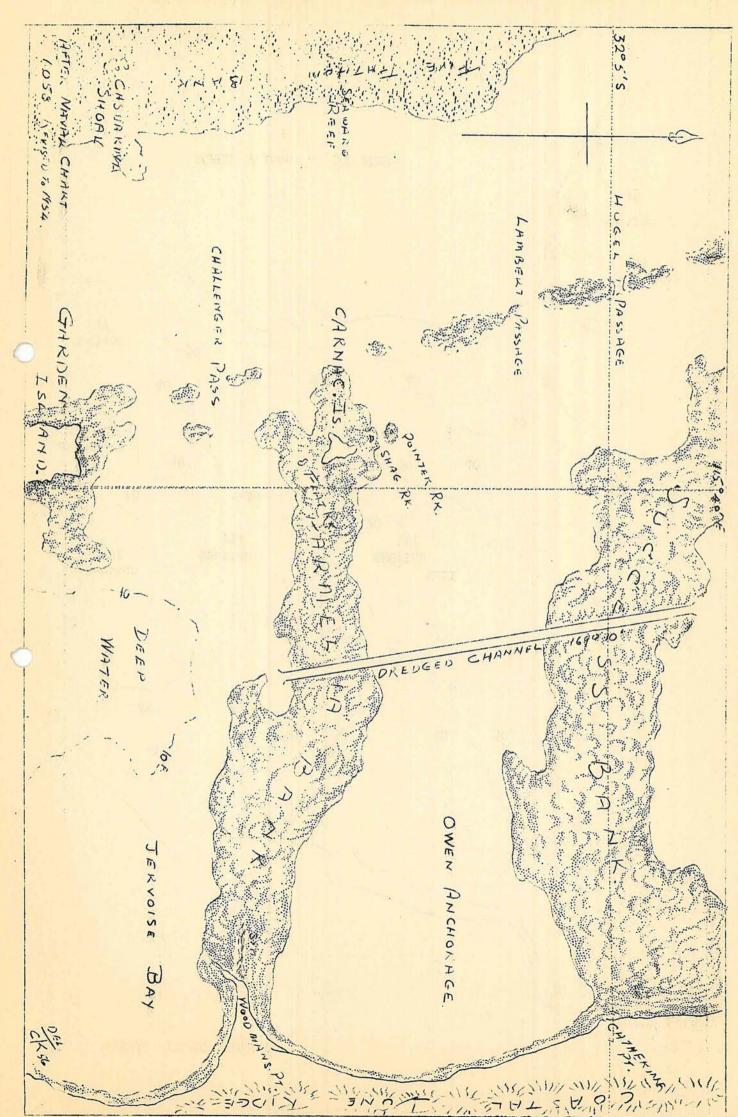
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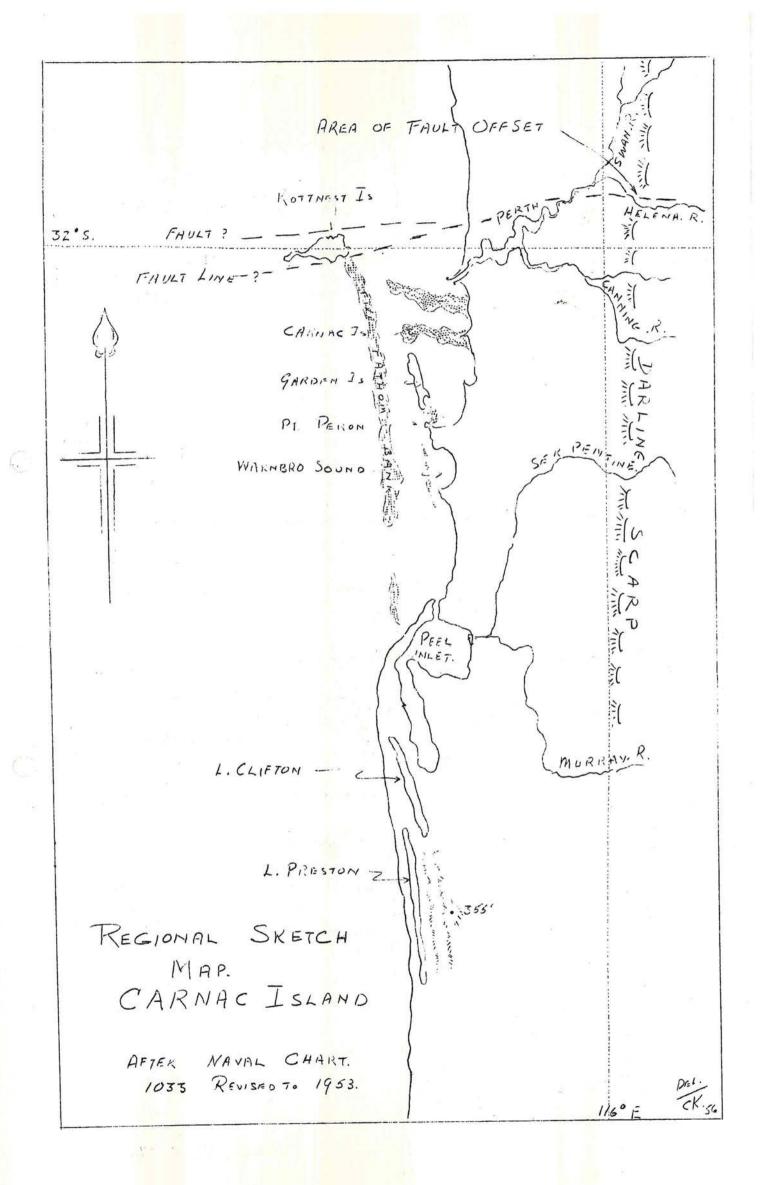
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SKETCH MAP SHOWING RELATION BETWEEN CARNAC IS & SUCCESS AND PARMIELIA BANKS.





MAMMALIA.

by

B.Phillips.

THE MOUSE (DOMESTIC).

These appeared in profuse numbers over the whole island surface.

Upon reference, it is upon them that we are able to base the changing population of the tiger snake, and partly due to the tiger snake itself the varying population of the mice was observed.

A series of trap lines were laid around the island, yielding proof of their existence over the whole surface; while also, but not conclusively, showing a tendency towards the higher ground and a dislike of the bare sand dune patches.

They appeared omniverous in their eating habits, the traps being baited with raisins, and even canibalistic on occasions when collected alive and placed in cages.

They occupied the position as scavengers of the camp and approached into the very beds of the party.

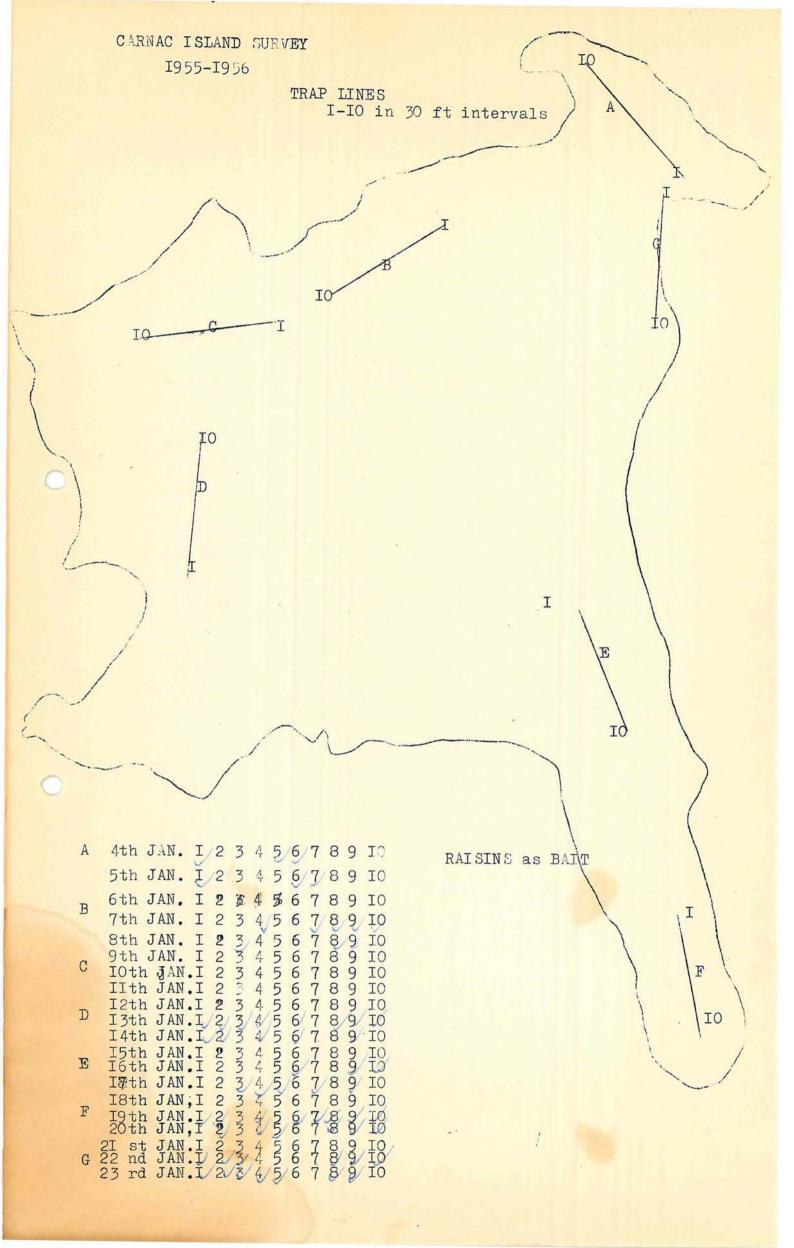
A peculiar game of chasing and bounding was observed by the party, in the gleam of the firelight. Their appearances were almost entirely at night.

Attached is a map of the trap lines laid, and the results of those.

Specimens were collected.

Below is one of the aluminium mammal traps (about 10 inches long) used in the mouse survey.





SEALS (Neophoca cinerea)

A large male specimen 8-10 ft long, with a white top to the head, was observed on several occasions during our visit in January,1956.

When seen it was usually asleep on a particular bed of <u>Posidonia</u> (Plate 6b) on a mound beneath the cliffs shown in plate 1b.

At approximately the middle of January it returned after one of its many trips with another seal, sex not determined. Barnacles were observed upon its back.

A dead specimen was found on the beach of the island to the south. Judging by the skeleton and in particular the teath it was that of an old male. The cause of death was not established, but it was presumed to be age.

REPTILIA.

by

B. Phillips.

KING SKINK (EGERNIA KINGII).

These occupy the position of the most prominent member of the islands landed population; and far from being timid they were almost constantly to be seen throughout the daylight hours. Omniverous in their habits, they ate of our table foods equally well as on a mouse which one was seen to catch and swallow alive. They were noted drinking on several occasions at the small soak by the camp, and were partial to juicy fruits etc., such as tomatoes. A large proportion of the population appeared to be adults a semi-mature species but a small number of young lizards were noted. Their presence was noted over the whole surface, where they were disturbed underfoot. Insects appear to be a part of the natural diet. Specimens were collected.

Marble Gechoes.

The presence of marble gechoes on the island was noted and also a number of eggs. Their presence was noted in the signal box and under the fork of the dead acacias on the path to trig., Section V.

Specimens were collected.

Striped Skink.

Presence noted on island of number of small striped skinks.

No specimens were collected.

TIGER SNAKE Notechis (scutstus).

On evidence of specimens either seen or collected and the cestings of fresh moultings, I have ascertained their presence over the whole surface.

At present the population appears to be at a low level as only 5 specimens were obtained and another 2 seen during the whole month.

On information obtained from visitors to the island, a high population appears to have occurred in the early spring months.

Nost specimens collected were of a semi-mature age, but one was a comparatively young animal.

Their presence was noted in the Sheer Water burrows and sunning upon the rough paths around the island. Two specimens collected from the well appear to have fallen in as no other means of entrance was observed.

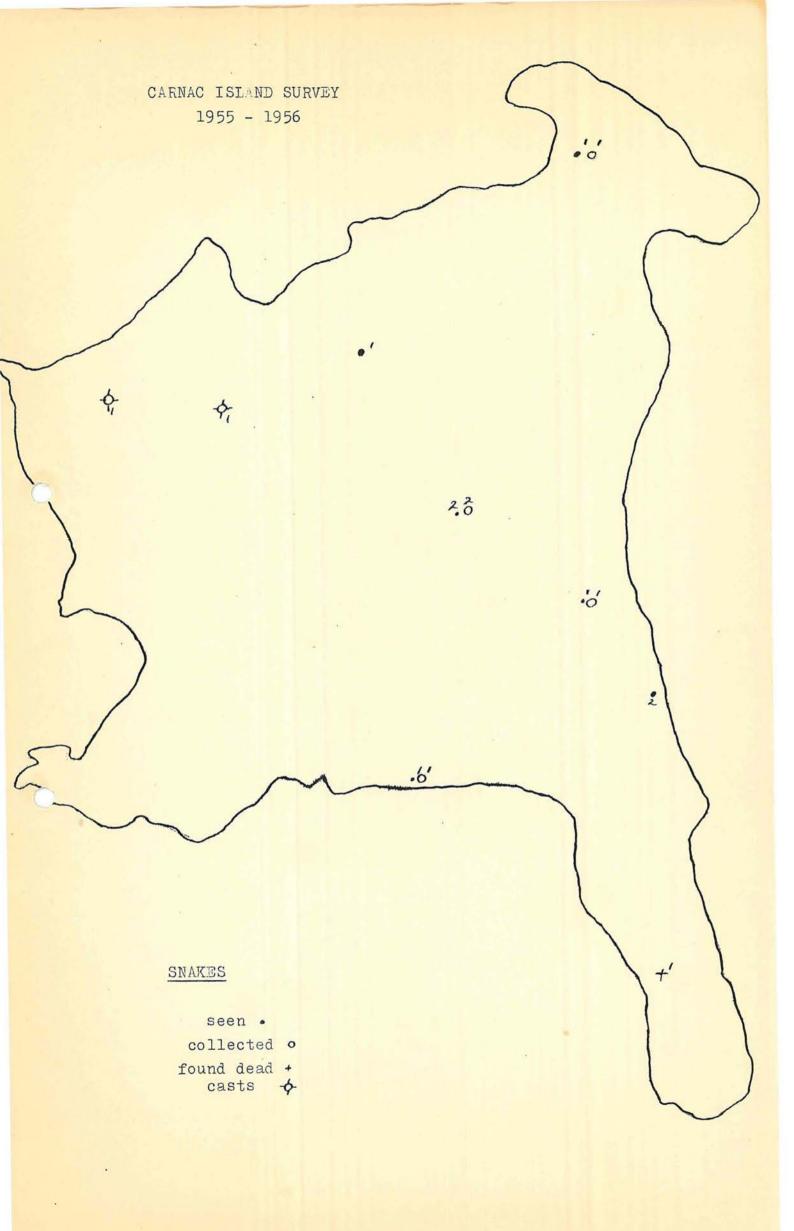
Their diet appears to be almost exclusively the domestic mouse, supplemented probably by young birds, and their numbers are regulated by its supply.

The presence of a specimen in the camp area at approximately 12.30 p.m., I attribute to the attraction of a number of caged mice in the area.

A point of interest noted in a specimen is accounted here:-

- (1) A specimen of a live, domestic species of mouse was placed in together with a newly captured specimen of a tiger enake, as the evening was approaching.
- (2) During the evening the mouse, untouched by the snake, was seen to proceed to stack the snake and attempt to eat it slive, so to speak, by tearing off portions of flesh and scales and eating them. The scake writhed away from it but appeared unable to hit it with its wild striking, even though the mouse was often within an inch of its nostrils.
- (3) On inspection at dawn the mouse was dead.
- (4) The snake lived for several days in captivity before dying although not necessarily of its wounds.

An attached cap shows the position of specimens either seen or collected.



S N A I L S.

ONAILO.

Three species of smails were found on Carase Island and these have been identified by George Kendrickss:

Helix pissas (Thebs), exotic.

Austrosucciaca contenta, native.

Cochlicella scote, exotic.

Specimens were herd to obtain, as the island was visited during the dry summer months.

Collegaed:-

Helix - over most of island surface. Austrosuccines only collected in dead state and from shrub areas east coast in Section VI. Cochlicella - heavy population over most of island.

Specimens were collected but further observations are needed to present a clear picture of this group.

MARINE BIOLOGY.

SUB-LITTORAL ALGAE.

by R. Howlett.

INTRODUCTION.

The algae that were collected were practically all fairly deep water specimens -15'-30', since almost no collecting by divers of algae actually growing in the deep water regions has been done anywhere in the world. All of the specimens collected are known species and have been seen before, but only as washed up plants on the beach, and not growing in their natural environment as regards depth, etc. By diving and actually seeing the living plants in their environment much valuable information about them was gained.

I did not collect the reef top algae as they have been fairly intensely studied, but of course quite a number of them extend over the reef edge onto the vertical reef face.

SUBMARINE TOPOGRAPHY.

Almost the whole of the island and the sub-islands near it, had flat reef tops round them covered by 1'-2' of water, and at the outer edge passed down vertically - or more correctly at a steep angle inwardly - to a sandy sea floor at 10'-20', thus forming a reef face overhanging at the top. The reef faces were consequently rather shaded with few algae growing on them - instead flat sponges were the dominant life here. On the sea floor wherever rock (coastal aeolian) occurred away from the shaded reefs, and light intensity was sufficient for photosynthesis, algae were prolific.

The east side of the island had a large and relatively sheltered fairly shallow bay, whose floor was completely covered with Posidonea or Sea Grass. When standing on Carnac many other patches of Posidonea could easily be picked up as dark blue patches in the lighter blue of the ocean all round the Island, and in fact all the way across to the mainland. The Posidonea forms a very dense mat of plants with fibrous roots, which hold much fine silty material round them. In this mat is a wealth of marine worms of various kinds, and herbivorous molluscs such as the Babr, and Plankton feeding Pinna shells in the sandy patches amongst the Posidonea. The decaying vegetation no doubt increases the Planktonic concentration of the water.

ALGAL ZONING RELATED TO LIGHT INTENSITY.

As water deepens, the light intensity naturally falls off and only the end colours of the spectrum reach the deeper water. Near the surface algae are generally bright green, further down are brown and still further, red. From the specimens collected the following colours related to depth were noted. From shallow water to deep they are:-

Bright green
Olive green
Pale browns
Pale brown with mauve or reddish tips
Copper browns
Reds.

FIRST RECORDING OF APJOHNIA LAETEVIRENS IN W.A.

This green algae was known previously only as for west and south Australia, but its range has now been extended to W.A. by this find. In appearance it is rather like a bunch of branching, bright green pine needles. It was found on the edge of the reef top and the reef face which at this particular area was covered by about 3' of water.

ALGAE OF SECTION 1

	ALGAE OF SECTION 1	
NAME	COLOUR	LOCALITY
Gracilana furcellata	Pale yellow green stems, white fronds with pink tips	Growing on Turbo shell in Posidonia Bay
Zonaria sp.	Pale brown	Reef face 5' - 6'
Lamencea sposcliny	Brown with white tips	Growing on Turbo shell in Posidonia Bay
Caulerpa simplisusaila	Green	Reef face 5' - 6'
Caulerpa salpelliformes	Dark green	do
Reterosiphana sp.	White stems, light brown fronds	do
Pterocladia lucida	Reddish brown	do
Cladostephus vertical- atus	Dirty, light brownish green	do
Clocamium procerum	Russet pink	Small reef 50 yds. S.E. of N. Island. 50' reef. face.
Laurencia	Pinkish brown	do
Caulerpa Sonderi	Dark green	do
Caulerpa Paspaloidea	Green	do
Pollefenia pedicellata	Dark khaki brown	do
Sporochnus scoparius	Light green	N. reef 20'-15' reef fac
Kallymenia Cribosa	Light mauve	do
Sargassum laucerifoluim	Light yellow brown	N. reef 20' reef face
Sargassum sp.	Light yellow brown	đo
Gargassum spinuligrum	Brown	do
Cladophura valonidoides	Pinkish mauve	do
Chrysymenia Brownie	Russet pink	E. side of N. Island reef face.
	erheum om minimus erformeralheid von er megselvings von er inschappente intraver minimus Austria er	

	ALGAE OF SECTION 2	
Caulerpa piforia	Green	Growing of molluse-Mega- lotractus in Posidonia Bay.
Cymodocea aufarchea	Green	Growing in sand 10'
Systophara rehoflesea	Light yellow brown	10' rock reef face
Halophila ovali	Lettuce green fronds, white stems	do
Cladostephus verticial- atus	Yellowish (dirty) brown	d o
Zostrea muellen	Green	In sand 10'

ALGAE OF SECTION 3

	MUGRED OF DECLION 3				
NAME	COLOUR		LOCAL	LTY	
Sargassum sp.	Light brown	151-201	on re	n rock reef	
Caulerpa hypuordes	Dark green fronds, paler stems and rumours	face			
Halimeda macroloba	Dark green	*	do		
Caulerpa sonderior obscura	Pale turquoise green		do		
Hennedya sp.	Reddish brown		do		
Laurencia sp.	Green, with frond tips light mauve		do		
Laurencia grevilliara	Fronds pinkish brown which fades to colourless in stems		do		
Hypnea episcopales	Pale brown		do		
Myclodea sp.	White stems, fronds chocolate brown		do		
Cladostephus or pullates	Green, furry fronds at		do		
Gelinaria sp.	Dark mauve on lower parts merging into mustardish green on upper parts	N.W. Ree	f 15'	reef face	
Rhodymenia auspolis	Pinkish brown	do	201	rock on bottom	
Rhabdonia robusta		do		do	
Davya sp.	Reddish brown	do	100	reef face	
Caulerpa hypuodes	Green with pinkish tips to fronds	de	31	do	
	ALGAE OF SECTION 4				
Sporrchinus secparius	Pale yellow brown	15'-20'	reef f	ace	
Lobospira vicuspidata	Light brown		ď	lo	
Thysanocladia oppositi- folia	Reddish brown		d	lo	
Laurencia sp.	Mauve	101	ć	lo	
Sargussum	Olive green	N.S. Isla	nd 20	reefface	
Codium tomenrosum	Dark green		ć	lo	

ALGAE OF SECTION 5

NAME

Apjohnie laetevirens

Scaberia aghardii

Sporochnus scopharius

Scytothalia dorycarpa

Hypnea musciformis

Struvea plumosa

Coelorthrium muellen

Dictyota sp.

Metamastophoa plana

Mospora aushalis

COLOUR

Bright green

Dark olive green

Yellow brown stems, green fronds

Dark yellow brown

Pinkish brown

Bright lettuce green

Pinkish brown

Green

Pale mauve

Dark pink

LOCALITY

200 yds. S. of S. Island 3'. Corner of reef face and reef top.

200 yds S. of S. Island 15' rock on bottom.

200 yds S. of S. Island 15' rock on bottom

200 yds S. of S. Island 15' rock on bottom

2-90 yds S. of S. Island 15' rock on bottom

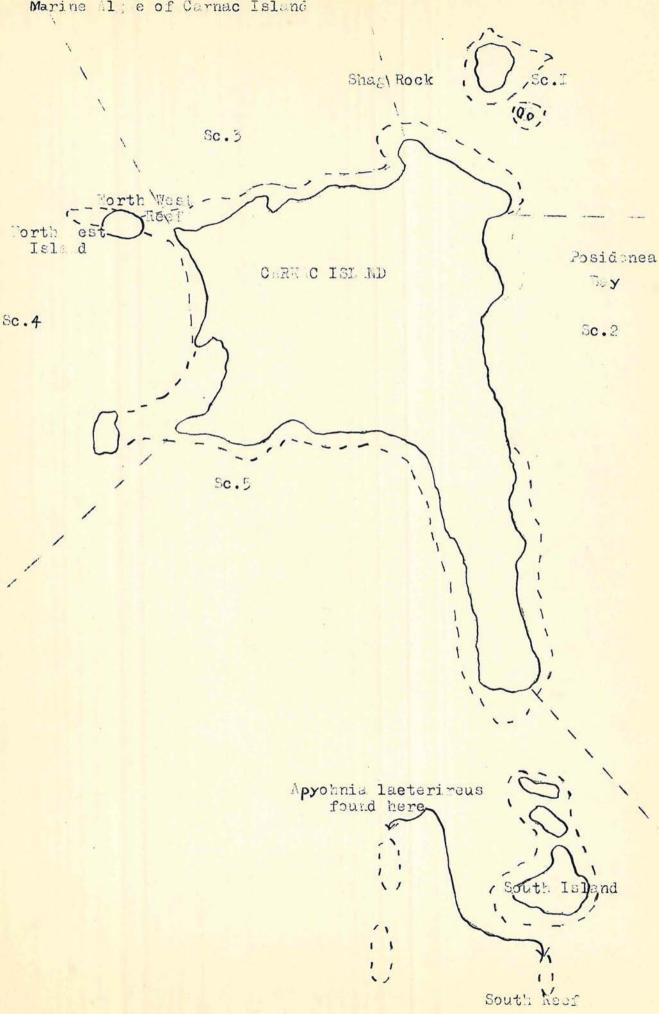
200 yds S. of S. Island 4' reef face

200 yds S. of S. Island 15' rock on bottom

200 yds S. of S. Island 15' rock on bottom

200 yds S. of S. Island 15' shady underpart.

200 yds S. of S. Island 15' rock on bottom. Marine Al; e of Carnac Island



INTERTIDAL ECOLOGY OF THE LIMESTONE REEFS OF CARNAC ISLAND, WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

37

Loisette M. Marsh and E.P. Hodgkin

INTRODUCTION

A brief visit was made to Carnac Island (28.3.51) during a survey of the intertidal ecology of the limestone reefs of the coast near Fremantle. Within the compass of this small island of $38\frac{1}{2}$ acres there are reefs of varied exposure and width the study of which has helped to elucidate problems of the distribution of the fauna found in other parts of the region. A further visit was made in 1956 (16th-19th January) during which reefs on the north, northeast, south, and west shores of the island were surveyed.

The purpose of the visits was to study the littoral fauna of the rock reefs of a small island with varied exposure and to compare these with the mainland reefs and those of Rottnest and Garden Island.

Weather and tides. During our visit the weather was fine and hot with easterly winds. The tides were of the typical summer pattern, low at about 7 a.m., and ranged from a maximum of 2.6 ft. to a minimum of 1.0 ft. on the Fremantle gauge. A portable recording tide gauge was set up on the reefs studied and their heights relative to Fremantle datum were calculated as described by Hodgkin (1956). Fixed reference points were established on the reefs.

Topography. Carnac island lies south west of Fremantle, three miles north of Garden Island. It is composed of coastal limestone (colianite) eroded from portion of a line of consolidated sand dunes which ran from Penguin Island in the south, through Point Peron, Garden and Carnac Islands to the Stragglers rocks (Fairbridge, 1948). The showes of the island are somewhat protected by offshore islett and reefs on the southeast, northwest, and north east corners. The degree of exposure to wave action therefore ranges from sheltered on the east coast to moderate exposure on the west and nearly full exposure on the south west corner. The margins of the island are capped by a layer of travertine below which is a cliff of softer rock. At the base of the cliff the rock is again hard and in many places forms the typical features of an overhanging visor, an intertidal undercut, and a reef flat at about mean low water which varies in width from a few yards (north east reef) to about 70 yards (west reef). The eastern shore is sandy with no reefs although there are small patches of rock at the base of the cliff in places. In contrast the castern shores of the rocky inlets north and south of Carnac island have distinct though narrow platforms on their eastern faces. The deepest part of the undercut varies in height from about 1 ft above the reef flat on the north reef to 6-8 ft on the south west island. The outer edge of the reef platforms is in many places deeply undercut and the water is 20-25 ft fleep.

PAUNA

The animals and plants of the intertidal reefs show a vertical zonation similar to that observed on rocky coasts in other parts of the world. In addition, however, there is here a horizontal zonation across the width of the reef flat and up to four main zones may be recognised, distinguished by the dominant animals or algae present.

Sketch maps of the reefs were made from the cliff top, the principal measurements being determined on the ground. Levels relative to the fixed points were obtained by horizon levelling and noted on the maps. The principal animal and plant associations were then plotted by observation on the reefs, and traverse line or lines across the reef flat selected for more careful study.

Along each traverse line a number of 1/4 square yard samples was selected at random in each zone and within each of these all the macroscopic animals were counted and the algal species recorded. The results are here presented in a series of tables. In whose the animal populations are shown either as the average number per 1/4 sq. yd. (figure underlined) followed by the range of variation, (e.g. 2, 0-4), or where the average was less than one per 1/4 sq. yd as the total found in all samples examinal from the zone. A list of all animal species found alive on the reefs is given in Appendix I.

1. The South Reefs

The southern shore of Carnac Island is mostly rocky and bounded by narrow reefs which extend either from an undercut cliff (at the southern point) or from a deeply pocketed and dissocted ramp three to five feet above the reef level on the south west where the traverse was made (1 in fig. 1).

Exposure to wave action is moderate to strong, the reefs being exposed to

waves from the south west but protected from the north west.

The reef platforms lie at about 1.5 ft above datum with a narrow raised rim about 0.3 ft higher. A traverse was made across the reef where it faces west-south-west and the fauna is listed in Table I. The distribution of the main associations is shown in fig. 2 and Table II.

The horizontal zonation of the reef flat was not marked, a narrow Jania zone of coralline algae was distinguished in places but the greater part of the platforms were covered with the mutton-fish, Haliotis roei. (Plate la). Overlying this species was a mixed algal turf of species of Jania, Pterocladia, Ectocarpus, Laurencia, Hypnea, Dictyota and Gystophora, short and sparze in some places and luxuriant in others. The outer edge of the reef had a dense population of animals on a surface of crumbly lithothamnion, (fig. 2).

The fauna is typical of a moderately exposed shore, except for area 14 where Balanus nigrescens and Fatellanax laticostata occur, species which are typical of exposed shores. Palythoa heideri, a tropical zoanthid common on Rottnest Island formed large colonies on area 10 of this reef and Zoanthus

praelongus is also present.

The intertidal undercut showed the zonation typical of reefs in the vicinity of Fremantle (Marsh, 1955). The highest zone was occupied by the littorinids Melaraphe unifasciata and Tectarius rugosus, then a zone of limpets, Notoacmea onychitis and a few Patellanax peroni. Siphonaria spp. were not recorded from this reef. Near the base of the undercut was a band of chitons, Clavarizona hirtosa and Poneroplax cestata. then Patelloida alticostata and in sheltered places the anemone Actimia tenebrosa. The large Patellanax laticostata, usually found on the reef edge, invades the undercut in places where the platform is very narrow.

2. South West Island

At the south west corner of Carnac Island is an islet attached by a narrow reef platform which surrounds it and is widest on its seaward end (2, fig. 1). No traverses were made across these reefs but the distribution of the commoner

animals and plants was plotted, (fig. 3).

Levels were not taken but most of the reef appears to lie at about 1 ft. above datum with raised areas on the narrow northern reef. There is little differentiation into horizontal zones but a marked change is evident in the animal and plant associations from the emposed western to the sheltered eastern reef flats. On the western side the reef fauna is that typical of the outer edge of a fairly exposed reef: Patellaner laticostata few Haliotis roei, Patelloida alticostata, lithothammen, few Glavarizona and no Isanemonia.

Heliocidaris was abundant over a small area of deeply pocketed reef on the north west side. On the north side which is more sheltered F. laticostata was almost absent and Harrison a and Clavarizona were plentiful. Haliotis was the dominant mollusc. On the noderately sheltered north east and south east sides the animal populations were replaced by algae, mainly Pterocladia capillacea, and on the sheltered eastern side there was a mixed algal turf dominated by Jania fastigiata. Pseudobonellia biutering was abundant on this part of the reef.

The intertidal undergue varies in height around the islet, from about 3 feet on the sheltered side it deepest point is not more than 3 ft above the reef flat while on the exposed side it is 6 or more feet. The animal zones are correspondingly raised. In an exposed place the zones were: a band of filementous green algae replacing the usual littorinids; a mixed limpet zone of Notoacnea, Patellanan percui, P. laticostata, Clavarizona, Onithochiton, Poneroplax, and a few Balarus nigrescens; and below this Patelloida, Actinia, Haliotis, and lithothamnica. Where there was more shelter from wave action there were no Onithochiton, Poneroplax, Balarus, P. laticostata or P. peroni.

3. West Reef

This is an extensive reef platform extending westwards from a sandy beach, (3, fig. 1). The reef platform is fairly high, about 2 feet above datum and appears to be moderately exposed to wave action. A traverse was made across the reef flat and the fauna is listed in Table III. The distribution of the associations is shown in fig. 4.

PABLE I

South Ree	f. Traverse	across	reef	flat.	For	explanation	see	page	2.

Yards from notch	0-3	4-12	13-17
Feet above datum	1.8 - 1.5	1,5	1.5 - 1.8
Number of samples	2,	17	10
Echiuroidea			
Pseudobonellia biuterina	=	-	1
Coelenterata			
Isanemonia australis Small striped anemone	a.	2, 0-4 7	8 6 , 5
Amphineura			
Clavarizona hirtosa Onithochiton occidentalis	-		2, 0-14 3, 0-10
Gastropoda			
Haliotis roei Prothallotia lehmani Patelloida alticostata	2	10, 4-20 1 4, 0-13	7, 3-1/ ₄ 7, 0-22
Floraconus anemone Euplica bidentata Pyrene	- 3 1	1 -	-
Dicathais aegrota Siphonaria baconi	2	6 1	1,0-5
Echinoidea			
Heliocidaris erythrograma	-	2, 0-12	3, 0-9
Dominant algae	Jania, Hypnea, Cystophora	lithothamnion, Ectocarpus	lithothammion (crumbly), Ptero- cladia, Rhodophy - eae.

TABLE II

South Reef. Distribution of animal and plant associations.

Area	Algae	Animals	Area	Algae	Animals
1	Jania Rhodophyceae	Heliocidaris	9	Lithothamnion Ectocarpus	Haliotis
2	Sargassum on	broken reef			Patelloida Heliocidaris
3		Haliotis	10	Rhodophyceae	Palythoa
		Heliocidaris		(small)	
4	Pterocladia	<u>Isanemonia</u>	11	=	Cnidopus
5	Laurencia Hypnea Pterocladia Dictyota	<u> </u>	12	Pterocladia Sargassum	Haliotis Isanemonia Patelloida Zoanthus
6	Lithothammion (crumbly)	Haliotis Isanemonia Onithochiton	13	Lithothamnion	Haliotis Patelloida Isanemonia
	v .	Clavarizona Patelloida	14 .	Lithothamnion	Haliotis Patelloida
7	Pterocladia	-			Isanemonia Clavarizona
8	Jania Hypnea Cystophora				Oni thochi ton Balanus Fatellanax lati- costata

Sargassum

At the times of our visits there was a partially exposed beach rock ramp populated with patches of mussels (Brachyodontes erosus) and Siphonaria baconi. From the ramp the platform is horizontally zoned as follows (a) Jania zone with much sand; (b) shallow pool; (c) a short turf of coralline algae with some Sargassum, Dictyota, Colpomenia and Hypnea; (d) an outer zone of lithothamnion with a fairly dense population of browsing molluscs (Haliotis roei, Patelloida alticostata, Patellanax laticostata (few), Onithochiton occidentalis and Clevarizona hirtosa) with a few Isanemonia australis and Heliocidaris erythrogramma. (Plate 1b). The chitons are confined to the outer half of the zone.

On parts of the reef lower than the general level Sargassum and Pterocladia predominate. Occurring on the reef flat, between 48 and 60 yards from the ramp, were these additional species, one specimen of each being found in the traverse: Cryptoplax iredalei, Cominella sp., Mitra sp., Bellastrea sp., Notoacmea onychitis, Austrocochlea rudis. Ravitrona caputserpentis was found here on the 1951 visit.

TABLE III

West Reef. Traverse across reef flat. For explanation see page 1, At 7 - 14 yd no macroscopic animals, dominant algae Sargassum, Ecklonia.

Yards from beach	6-6	15-23	24-51	52-58
Feet above datum	2.3	2.1	2.2	1.9-2.4
Number of samples	3		8	17
Echiuroidea	Charles of the control of the same of the control o		CONTROL OF THE CONTRO	ACTION OF THE PARTY OF THE PART
Pseudobonellia biute	rina -	-	2	5
Coelenterata				
Isanemonia australis		+	24	+
Amphineura				
Clavarizona hirtosa Onithochiton occiden	talis -	_	-	3, 0-16 4, 0-25
Gastropoda				
Haliotis roei Gena auricula Prothallotia pulcher	rimus	1 1 1	<u>-</u> 2 ₄	6, 0-21 11 3, 0-22
Notogibbula preissia Ninella whitleyi Patellanax laticosta		1 1 1	į	1, 0-4
Fatelloida alticosta Floraconus anemone Euplica bidentata	<u>ta</u> –	1 1 1	7 2 7, 0–22	34, 0-95 2 7, 0-27
Pyrene Dicathais aegrota Siphonaria baconi	11, 0-20	-	2 1 -	7 9 -
Pelecypoda.				
Brachyodontes erosus	800-1000	-	3	2
Echinoidea				
Heliocidaris erythr	ograma -	-	11	2
Asteroidea			0	6
Patiriella gumii	-	-	8	
Dominant algae	No macro- scopic algae	Janie, Sargass Rhodoph	- Rhodophyce um, yceae	ulwa, Ptero- cladia, Laurencia, Jania,

4. North Reef

The reef flat is about 40 yards wide but is dissected by several deep pools (4, fig. 1). It extends from an intertidal undercut which is low with a wide overhang. The reef is fairly sheltered in aspect.

No traverses were made but the distribution of the animal and plant associations were plotted (fig. 5). The reef is horizontally zoned into: (a) an inner Jania zone of coralline turf with some Sargassum and sand, at about 1.5 ft above datum, Patiriella gunni was abundant in this zone; and (b) red-brown zone of Sargassum with Pterocladia, Hypnea, Laurencia, Ulva, Jania, and patches of Cymodocea, this was deeply pocketed and at a relatively low level (1.0-1.3 ft above datum) Pyura pachydermatina occurred here; (c) at the reef edge a narrow raised rim, at about 1.5 ft, on which a modified Haliotis-lithothamnion association was present (fig. 5).

The intertidal undercut: the deepest part of the undercut was about 1 ft above the reef flat and the animal population was sparse. In the Littorinid zone were few Melaraphe and Tectarius. The limpet zone was dominated by Notoacmea onychitis with Siphonaria luzonica and a few Patellanax peroni. Lower down were Patelloida alticostata with a few Poneroplax and Balanus. The alga Gelidium occurs at the base of the undercut and in places a tube building Polychaete of the family Sabellariidae was plentiful.

5. North East Reef

On the north east corner of the island are narrow dissected reefs, ten yards wide or less (5, fig. 1). They are sheltered from wave action and provide a contrast to the more exposed reefs of the other shores of the island.

We were not able to examine this reef but a survey was kindly made by J.A.L. Watson. The reef was covered by a coralline turf and sand. The outer edge lacked the dense animal populations of the exposed reefs and was covered with Sargassum and Pterocladia with little lithothamion. Patelloida was the only animal species living on the rock surface, the others being browsers on the algae, predators, detrital and plankton feeders.

The distribution of the animals is shown in Table IV.

TABLE IV

North East Reef. Traverse across the reef flat. Survey by J.A.L. Watson

Yards from notch	01	1-3	3-5	5-7
Polychaeta	20	-		95
fam. Sabellariidae	-	-		+
Echiuroidea				
Pseudobonellia biuterina	-		_	+
Coelenterata				
Isanemonia australis	_	+	+	-
Small green anemone Small striped anemone		+	+	_
-				
Amphineura				
Clavarizona hirtosa	+	=		-
Gastropoda				
Patelloida alticostata	+	++	+	+
Floraconus anemone	-	-	-	+
Euplica bidentata	_	-	+	+
Gena auricula	-	: • • •	+	+
Dicathais aegrota	-	-		+
Ninella whitleyi	+	-	+	++
Austrocochlea rudis	·ir	+	-	
Siphonaria baconi	+		-	
S. luzonica	+		=	
Pelecypoda				
Brachyodontes erosus	-	+	+	+
Echinoidea				
Heliocidaris erythrogramma	-	-	4	+ .,

DISCUSSION

- 1

On this small island with its irregular shape there is considerable difference in exposure to wave action on the various reefs. The distribution of the fauna is related to this factor and to platform width and level. On the moderately exposed South Reef the Haliotis roei association extends from the outer edge almost to the intertidal undercut where the reef is narrow; where it is wider and more exposed Patellanax laticostata and Balanus nigrescens also occur. More exposed conditions were found on the outer face of the South West Island where P. laticostata and B. nigrescens were dominant. Haliotis roei was dominant on the moderately exposed west Reef the H. roei association was dominant in a wide zone on the outer parts while on the more sheltered North Reef this association was confined to a very narroband along the outer edge. The lower parts of both these reefs and the inshore areas were dominated by algae. On the narrow North East Reef algae extended to the reef edge with a few Patelloida alticostata.

These observations confirm those made elsewhere that the pattern of zonation is related to the distance from the reef edge and to the exposure to wave action. The height of the intertidal undercut is also related to the exposure. On the outer face of the South West Island the deepest part is about 6 ft above the reef flat while on its inner face it is not more than 3 ft, and on the North Reef it is even lower, 1-2 ft above the reef flat. The animal zones of the undercut vary correspondingly

The fauna of the Carnac Island reefs is similar to that found on Garden Island and Pt. Peron in that most of the species have a southern or warm temperate distribution. Tropical species, namely, Zoanthus praelongus, Palythoa heideri and Ravitrona caputserpentis which was uncommon. In the sublittoral several species of corals, not yet identified, formed large colonies.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors wish to express their thanks to the State Fisheries Department of Western Australia for generously providing transport to the island, and to members of the Naturalists' Club for assistance with the field work.

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Dominant algae Bare rock Coralline Corallines, Sargassum, ulva, algae Sargassum in pools. Structure Pterocladia, Lithothamnion

APPENDIX I

List of species found alive on the intertidal reefs Carnac Island, January 1956.

Coelenterata

Actiniaria

Actinia tenebrosa Farquhar Isanemonia australis Carlgren Smallstriped anemone Cnidopus verater (Drayton)

Zoanthidea

Zoanthus praelongus Carlgren 1954 Palythoa heideri Carlgren 1954

Amnelida

Polychaeta

Fam. Sabellariidae, Gen.et sp.indet.

Echiuroidea

Pseudobonellia biuterina Johnston & Arthropoda

Cirripedia

Balanus nigrescens Lamarck Tetraclita purpurascens (Wood)

Echinodermata Echinoidea

Asteroidea

Patiriella gunnii (Gray) Petricia obesa H.L. Clark

Chordata

Tunioata.

Pyura pachydermatina Herdman var. gibbosa Herdman

Mollinsca

Amphineura

Clavarizona hirtosa Blainville Poneroplax costata Blainville Onithochiton occidentalis Ashby Cryptoplax sp.

Gastropoda

Haliotis roei (Gray) Gena auricula (Lamarck) Patelloida alticostata (Angas) Notoacmea onychitis (Menke) Patellanax peroni Blainville Patellanax laticostata (Blainville) Prothallotia pulcherrimus (Wood) Prothallotia lehmani (Menke) Austrocochlea rudis (Cray) Notogibbula preissiana (Philippi) Ninella whitleyi Iredale Bellastrea Sp. Melaraphe unifasciata (Gray) Tectarius rugosus (Menke) Melanerita melanotragus (Smith) Euplica bidentata Menke Pyrene spp.

Heliocidaris erythrogramma (Valenciennes) Mitra sp. Cominella sp. Floraconus anemone (Lamarck) Ravitrona caputserpentis (Linne) Siphonaria baconi Reeve Siphonaria luzonica Reeve

Pelecypoda

Brachyodontes erosus Lamarck

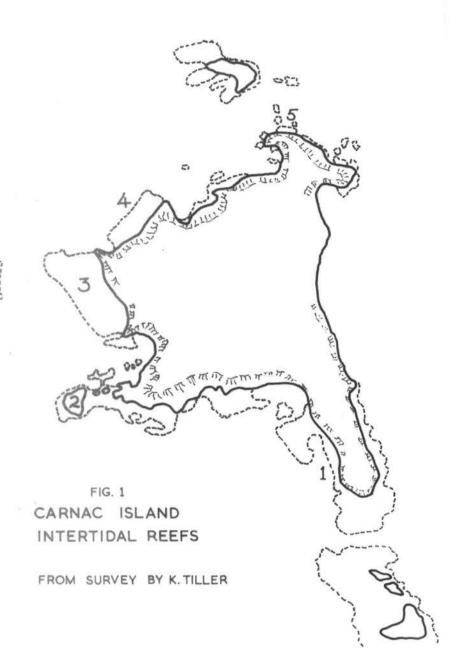
EXPLANATION OF PLATE & FIGURES

Plate I

a. Haliotis roei, Patelloida alticostata and algae on South Reef.
 b. Haliotis roei, Patelloida alticostata, Isanemonia australis, Clavarizona hirtosa and Lithotharmion on West Reef.

Figures 1 to 4 Key to symbols used ANIMALS

¥	ALVILIALA		
崩一	Isanemonia australis	B	Ulva lactuca
EZ	Cnidopus verater	11/6	Jania fastigiata
1	Palythoa heideri	- n	Hypnea spp.
12	Zoanthus praelongus	***	Pterocladia capillac
(9)	Onithochiton occidentalis	V.	Laurencia spp.
(重)	Clavarizona hirtosa	55.7	Lithothamnion
A	Patelloida alticostata	E	Sargassum spp.
<u> </u>	Patellanax laticostata	¥	Cystophora uvifera
63	Haliotis roei	9	Ecklonia radiata
Ves	Brachyodontes erosus		3
创	Balanus nigrescens	,7,) [']
*.	Patiriella gunnii		
¥0€	Heliocidaris erythrogramma		



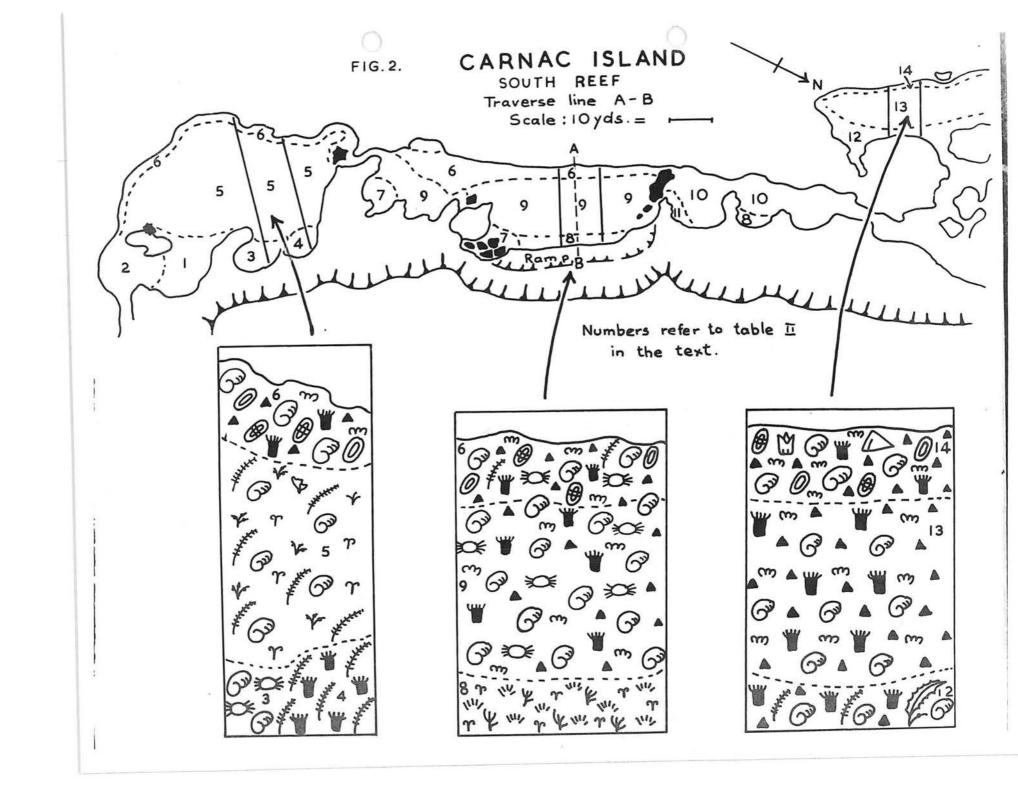


FIG.3.

CARNAC ISLAND
SOUTH-WEST ISLAND

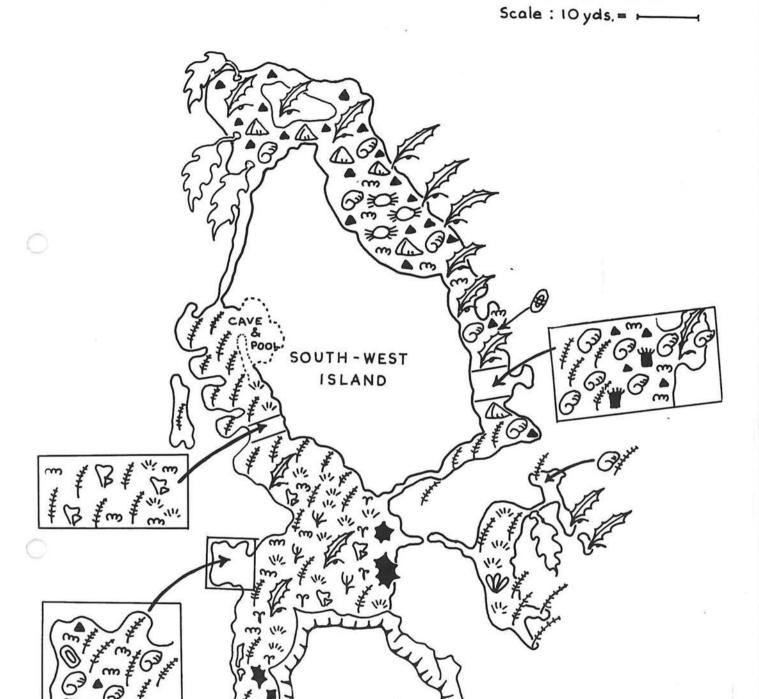
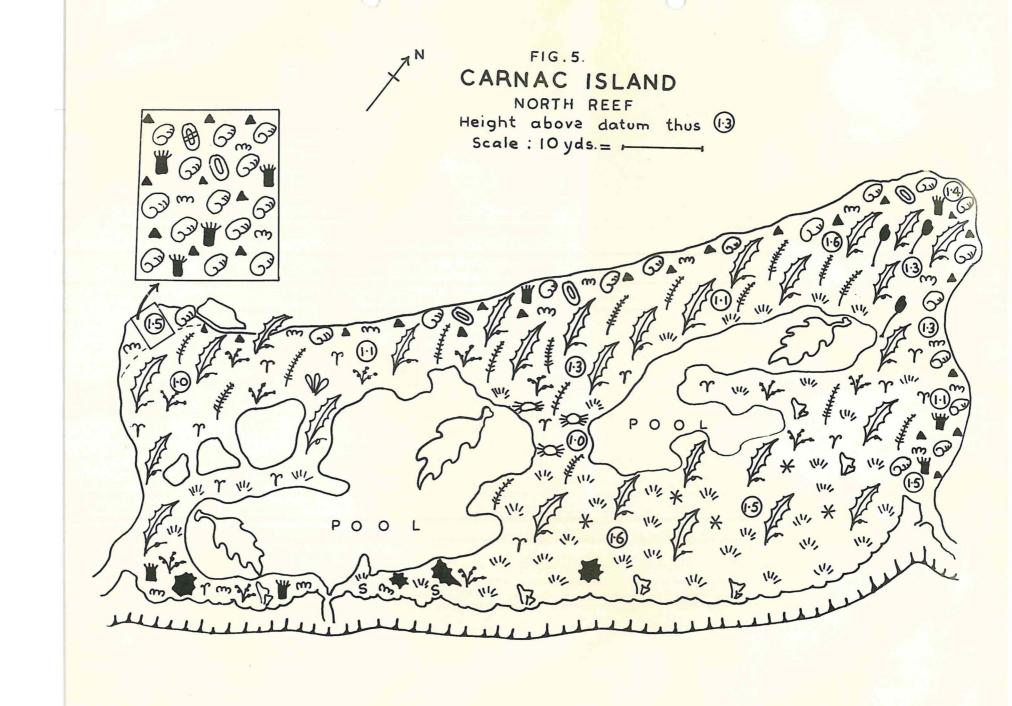


FIG.4. CARNAC WEST REEF Traverse line A-B Scale: 10 yds. = -



THE SUB-LITTORAL MOLLUSCA OF CARNAC ISLAND

Report on collections made during December, 1955.

By D.L.Cook.

In the following list of species, general habitat is given, e.g. sandy bottom, reef etc., as well as any additional useful information. For general distibution, reference should be made to the detailed map of the island, showing topography of the adjacent ocean floor.

This report deals only with living animals, observed in their natural habitats and is by no means complete as was evident from the abundant dead material in the ocean floor and washed up on the surrounding beaches.

GASTROPODA

Sabia conica (Cap Limpet) All the specimens collected were found attached on the external surface of other larger molluscs e.g.

Megalotractus aruanus; Dicathais aegrota; the Red Whelk, Charonia rubicunda

Megalotractus aruanus (Falso Trumpet shell). The two specimens found, were associated with the sea grass Posidonia. Both wore a heavy growth of alga on the forsal surface of the shell.

Melo miltonis (Southern Bailer). Two specimens 12" in length and one juvenile 4" in length - all associated with banks of Posidonia.

Charonia rubicunda (Red Whelk). A sub-littoral, reef form, associated with Ecklonia radiata in sand pockets on the reef flat.

Scutus antipodes (Elephant Snail). Littoral to sub-littoral - under detached limestone boulders or in crevices in the reef.

Quibulla botanica (Bubble Shell). All specimens found, were beneath limestone boulders on the reef flat, east side of the island.

Campanile symbolicum (Giant Creeper). In sandy areas away from recto or in the larger sand pockets of limestone reefs. All specimens very eroded. Dead shells occupied by a species of Pagurid.

Stomatella imbricata. All specimens found, were beneath boulders on the reef flat; east side of the island.

Bellastraea kesteveni. Not common. Found on Posidonia fronds. Dead shells found in water, contained Pagurids.

Bellastraea sp. In rock hollows from mid-tide levels and deeper.

Cacozeliana granarium (Bittium). Common beneath limestone boulders on reef-flats. Dead shells frequently contained Pagurids.

Sophismalepas nigrita (Key-hole Limpet). Common beneath boulders on the reef-flat.

Haliotis elegans. The only specimen, with the animal intact, was one found taken by an Octopus (Octopus vulgaris) in 10 ft. of water on the west side of the island.

Gena auricula. (False Ear Shell). All specimens found were beneath limestone boulders on the reef-flat.

Josepha tasmanica (Whelk). Sub-littoral, under rocks.

Thalotia conica. On Pospidonia leaves.

Clanculus consorbrinus. Beneath limestone boulders on intertidal platform.

Gibbula priessiana. Beneath limestone boulders on intertidal platform. Glossodoris westraliensis. Numerous specimens found, crawling on weed or limestone surfaces.

Aplysia angasi. Crawling amongst Posidonia.

ALEFITATEURA:

Heteroyona cariosa and Autochiton virgatus. Common on shell tests and living Pinna dolabrata.

Cryptoplax iredalei; Autochiton torri, Notoplax striata westraliensis, Ischnochiton contractus.

All found beneath limestone boulders on intertidal platform.

Autochiton virgatus. A small species (3-4 mm) found on shell tests and living on pinna dolabrata associated with Posidonia.

Octobus vulgaris. Common in littoral and sub-littoral. Burrows or permanent nests have only been observed in the sub-littoral.

Sepia sp. One specimen collected in crayfish pot in deep water (40 ft) off North side of island.

PELECYPODA

Venerupis exotica (Venus Shell). A number of specimens found be a limestone boulders on reef flat.

Cardita crassicosta. Specimens com lected beneath boulders on intertidal platform.

Barbatia pistachia. Firmly attached in and on limestone boulders on reef-flat. Common.

Mytilus planulatus (Mussel). On piles of old tide gauge.

Chama ruderalis. Fused by one valve to base of limestone boulder or reef flat.

Ostrea sp. Attached to umbilical wall of living Megalotractus.
Pinna dolabrota. Common in sand, adjacent to Posidonia banks.

THE ECHINODERM FAUNA OF CARNAC ISLAND

hy D.L. Cook and L.M. Marsh

Introduction

The present collection of echinoderms was made in connection with a survey of the fauna of Cockburn Sound and as an addition to the survey of Carnac Island made by the W.A. Naturalist Club during the summer of

A brief visit was made to the island on 29th-30th March 1958 by the same group during which time one of the authors (D.L.C.) was able to collect and observe the echinoderm fauna of the island. The short coastline, about 1.5 miles long, enabled samples to be collected from a number of different habitats on the North, West and East sides of the island using self-contained breathing apparatus to permit thorough observation and collection from otherwise inaccessible habitats such as the sublittoral undercuts.

The physiography of the island and the fauna of the intertidal limestone reefs are described elsewhere in these reports. The information relevant to the species collected is tabulated overleaf. The specimens have been donated to the W.A. Museum.

Discussion and Conclusions.

The majority of the species collected are common in the vicinity of Fremantle and the offshore islands with the exception of Austrofromia polypora of which only seven specimens were previously known (H.L.Clark, 1946). Plectaster decamus is listed by Clark as an uncommon species ranging from Port Jackson to the Bight. The present record extends the range of this species westwards.

Few specimens of Patiriella gunnii were found in March 1958 where s it was very abundant on the north east reef (area H in fig. I.) in January 1956. Patiriella brevispina in contrast to the previous species occurs in calm water on piles, rocks or Posidonia beds; while not common at Carnac it is very abundant on the Eastern side of Cockburn Sound.

The echinoderms listed are predominantly Flindersian species. the fourteen species positively identified ten are Flindersian and six of these extend eastwards into the Peronian province. Of the remainder, two species are endemic to South Western Australia and two have a wider distripution; one of these is almost circum-Australian except for the North East portion and the other is widely distributed in the Southern Hemisphere from Natal through Southern Australia to New Zealand.

No primarily Dampierian species appear in this collection. Four species have not been identified.

Acknowledgments

We wish to acknowledge the valuable help given by the State Fisheries Department in providing transport to the island.

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Key to table:

Area, of collection - indicated by letters in table are shown on map.

Key to habitats (indicated by numbers in the table). Flat weed beds. Dominant plants Posidonia australis and Zostera sp.

 Flat weed beds. Dominant plants Posidonia australis and Zostera
 Intertidal reef platform.
 Sub-littoral undercut. Diffuse lighting; little or no plant life; much animal life.

4. Beneath sub-littoral boulders at 1.5 fathoms.

5. Low limestone outcrop in Posidonia weed bed. Depth 1.5 fathoms.

6. Tide gauge piles.

7. Beneath boulders in pool in intertidal cave. Diffuse lighting; no plant life; little animal life.

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Carnac Island - showing areas collected.

Species	Habitat & area	melative abundance	Further distribution
ASTEROIDEA			
Austrofromia polypora H.L.Clark Coscinasterias calamaria (Gray) Parasterina occidentalis H.L.Clark Patiriella gunnii (Gray) Patiriella brevispina H.L.Clark Patiriella sp.	2E, F,H 6B 4D	Common at 6B 3 specimens 2 specimens Not common 2 specimens 1 specimen	Flindersian Natal, Southern Aust. to N.Z. Endemic near Fremantle + Flindersian + Flindersian
Petricia chesa H.L.Clark	3A, D, F	Very common	Abromhos to Cape Naturaliste cf. P. vernicina (S.A. & N.S.
Pentagonaster dubeni Gray Plectaster decamus (M & T) cf. W.A.M. 95.32	3A, E 3D 1C	Very common 1 specimen 1 specimen	+ Flindersian + Flindersian
ECHINOIDEA			
Heliocidaris erythrogramma (Valenciennes)	2A,E,G,H 3D,F,J, 5C	Very common	+ Flindersian +
Phyllacanthus irregularis Mortenson Holothuroidea	3E, F	2 specimens	Flindersian
Leptosynapta dolabrifera (Stimpson)	4D	3 specimens	Flind., Peronian, Western Dampierian & Lord Howe Is.
Large brown holothurian	3C, Sand at base of 3J	2 specimens	-
CRINOIDEA Comasteridae		100	
? Cenolia trichoptera (J.Müller)	3D, 7F	Common at 7F	+ Flindersian +
OFHIUROIDEA			
Ophiocoma canaliculata Lutken	4D	3 specimens	+ Flindersian +
Ophionereis schayeri (Müller & Troschel)	4D	4 specimens	+ Flindersian +

Footnote: Flindersian = Victoria, S.A. and W.A. not east of Bass Str. or north of Geraldton. + Flind. + = Flindersian with extensions into N.S.W. and north of Geraldton. Peronian = Eastern Vic. to South @ld. Dampierian = Geraldton Cape York. (After Bennett & Pope 1953).

Addendum.

Peronella lesveuri

collected -Jan 1956.

East Indian a North Aust. Cosmopolitan.

Echinocardium cordatum. 1c.

PRELIMINARY LIST OF THE FISH POPULATION FOUND IN THE WAIERS IMMEDIATELY SURROUNDING CARNAC IS.

ERIC J. CAR.

Due to the limited time available for us to work on the fish population, this list is to be regarded only as a basis for future work which it is hoped we will be able to carry out in the near future.

The period during which this survey was taken extended from:the 29th December, 1954, to 3rd January, 1955 and the 30th March, 1958
to the 2nd April, 1958.

To obtain a complete picture of the area, we first swam round the island. We subsequently selected 3 areas in which a more complete survey was carried out.

The three areas worked on were:-

(a) the Possidonia bay on the Eastern shore.

(b) the Northern shore.

(c) the Northern most bay on the Western shore.

Rather than itemise the fish found in each area, I propose to list all the fish recorded and to indicate by the use of the prefix (a), (b) or (c) the area in which they were found.

For the purpose of this list I have ommitted the Cartilaginous fish (sharks, rays, etc.), as none were collected and their identification would be uncertain from specimens seen.

A LIST OF FISH FOUND ON CARNAC ISLAND.

SUB PHYLUM PISCES.

CLASS ACTINOPPERI.

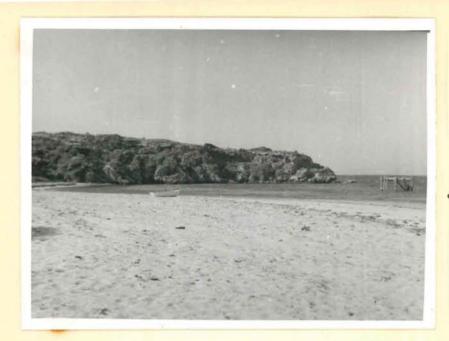
Family: Clupeidae.		
Sardinops neopilchardus. (Stein)	Pilchard.	(a)
Family: Plotosidae.		
Cnidoglanis macrocephalus (C&V)	Cobbler.	(a)
Family: Muraenidae.		
Gymnothorax woodwardi (McCull)	Woodwards Reef Eel.	(bc)
Family: Gadidae.		
Lotella callarias (Gnth.)	Beardie.	(b)
Family: Atherinidae.		
Hepsetia pinguis (Lacepede)	Hardy Head.	(a)
Family: Mugilidae.		
Aldichetta forsteri (C&V)	Yellow Eyed Mullet.	(a)
Family: Epinephelidae.		
Acanthistius serratus (C&V) Epinephelus homosinensis. Whitley.	Wirrah.	(c)
Family: Hypoplectrodidae.		
Epinephelides armatus (Cast.) Othos dent (C&V)	Tiger Cod. Harlequin Fish.	(b)
Family: Therapontidae.		
Therapon humeralis (Ogilby) Helotes sexlineatus (Q&G)	Trumpeter.	(a)
Family: Plesiopidae.		
Paraplesiops melèagris (Peter)	Blue Devil.	(b)
Family: Apogonidea.		
Ostorhinchus ruppellii (Gunther) Lovamia fasciata.	Gobble Guts. Stripped Gobble Guts.	(a) .(c)
Family: Sillaginidae.		
Sillaginodes punctatus (C&V)	King Geo. Whiting.	(a)
Family: Carangidae.		
Caranx georgianus (G&V)	Trevally.	(b)
Family: Glaucosomidae.	and the state of	
Glaucosema hebraicum. Richardson.	Jew Fish.	(c)
Family: Arripidae.		
Arripis georgianus (C&V)	Ruff.	(abc)

	Family: Pomatomidae.		
	Pomatomus saltator (Linn).	Tailor.	(b)
	Family: Gerridae.		
	Gerres ovatus (Gnth)	Silver Belly.	(c)
	Family: Mullidae.		
	Upenichthys porosus (C&V) Upenus tragulus (Rich)	Goat Fish.	(a) (b)
	Family: Sparidae.		
	Rhabdosargus sarba (Forse).	Silver Brean.	(b)
	Family: Pempheridae.		
	Pempheris klunzingeri. McCull.	Bulls Eye.	(bc)
	Family: Scorpidae.		
	Scorpis georgianus (C&V) Scorpis aequipinnis Rich.	Banded Sweep. Sea Sweep.	(bc)
	Family Girellidae.		
	Tephraeops tephraeops. (Rich) Melambaphes zebra. (Rich)	Zebra Fish.	(bc) (bc)
	Family: Chaetodontidae.		a.
54	Chelmonops truncatus (Kner) Microcanthus stribatus (Car) Vinculum sexifasciatum (Rich)	Footballer. Moonlighter.	(bc) (abc) (bc)
	Family: Chironemidae.		
	Threpterius maculosus Rich	Silver Spot Fish.	(b).
	Family: Cheilodactvlidae.		
	Cheilodactvlus spectabilis (Hutton)	Brown Banded Morwo	
	Goniistius gibbosus (Rich) Dactyopagrus nigricans. (Rich)	Magpie Morwong. Dusky Morwong.	(bc) (b) (a)
	Family: Pomacentridae.		
•	Parma McCullochi (Whit)	Puller.	(bc)
	Family Coridae.		
	Coris Auricularis (C&V) Pseudolabrus terticus (Rich) Pseudolabrus parilius (Rich) Pseudolabrus punctulatus (Gnth) Ophthalmolepis lineolatus (C&V)		(a) (b) (bc) (bc) (bc)
	Family Bociandiae.		
	Achoerodus gouldii (Rich)	Blue Groper.	(b)
	Family: Parapercidae.		
	Parapercis haackei (Stein)	Grub Fish.	(ab)
	Family Blenniidae.		4)
	Blennius tasmanien sis. (Rich.) Graviceps alexanderi. whit.	Blenny. Snake Blenny.	(bc) (a)

Family: Brotulidae.		
Diplus caecus Waite.	*	(b)
Family Gobridae.		
Callogobius mucosus (Gnth)	*	(a)
Family. Platycephalidae.		
Platicephalus bassensis (C&V)	Flathead.	(a)
Family: Ostraciontidae.		
Anoplocapros lenticularis (Rich) Aracana aurita (Shaw)	Box Fish. Horned Box Fish.	(a) (ab)
Family: Tetraodontidae.		
Speroides pleurogramma (Regan) Contusus richei. (Fremin ville)	Blowie. Horshoe Blowie.	(abc) (b)
Family Diodontidae.		
Atopomycterus nicthemerus. (C&V)	Porcupine Fish.	(a)

Plates 1-8.

- Plate 1. Eastern shore of the island.
 - (a) Looking North. Shearwater nesting sites under travertine cap on headland.
 - (b) Looking South. Seal found resting at base of cliff at this point.
 - (c) General view of the Eastern shore looking North. Tide gauge, right centre.
- Plate 2.(a) Tumbled block on Northern Edge; typical erosive feature.
 - (b) Travertine cap at the top of cliffs on Northern side. Solution pipes present.
- Plate 3. Vegetation.
 - (a) Central portion, annual grasses. Orabanche observed in this region.
 - (b) View of West coast, typical sand dune vegetation present: Scirpus nodosus Salsola kali, Olearia axillaris.
 - (c) View of cliff edge, Carpobrotus sp., Scaevola crassifolia.
- Plate 4.(a) South East corner of island looking towards south island. Garden Island in right background.
 - (b) View West-East across island, mainland in distance.
 - (c) Shag rock off the North East corner of Carnac Little Carnac in foreground.
- Plate 5.(a) Silvereye, photographed at soak.
 - (b) Nest collected from top of dead acacia. See text.
- Plate 6. (a) Shearwater under travertine cap. North East corner.
 - (b) White capped hair seal (Neophoca cinerea) sleeping on Posidonia layer on beach.
 - (c) North Reef, looking east. (See fig. 5, Report on Intertidal Ecology.)
- Plate 7. (a) Western shore, looking south. West Reef on right. (See fig. 4, Report on Intertigal Ecology.
 - (b) Southern shore, looking East.
 - (c) Southern Shore, looking West. Part of South Reef at left. (See fig. 2, Report on Intertidal Ecology.)
- Plate 8. (a) South Reef.Pocketed surface with Haliotis roei and Patelloida alticostata. Sargassum sp. lower left.Coralline turf between pockets.
 - (b) West Reef. Haliotis roei, Patelloida alticostata, Clavarizona hirtosa and Isanemonia australis (lower centre). Lithothamnion on ridges between pockets. (See Report on Intertidal Ecology.)



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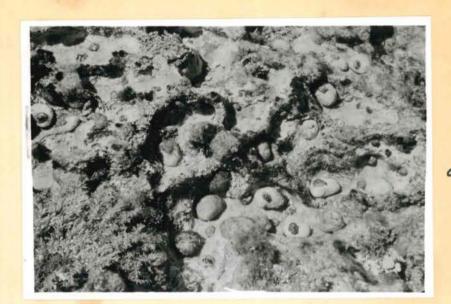
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