

Carroll's Waters  
10<sup>th</sup> Oct: '95

Dear Professor

Your proof of the  
Mammalian article, descriptions  
of new species, and plates  
arrived safely - Very many  
thanks for them.

The plates were a surprise  
as I never dreamt that they  
could turn out this class of  
work so well in Melbourne.  
They are incomparably superior  
to Lydekker's or any others that  
I have seen. *Macdonnellensis*,  
*Psamrophilus* and *Cristina*  
are beautifully done, and *Leaspurinus*  
with a whole plate to himself,  
looks



looks splendid. It is a thousand  
pities that Storm did not decide  
to have the whole work published  
in Melbourne, and if his days  
are untroubled by engravers, and  
his nights haunted by printers  
devils, the Reynolds will only  
be just. Second, how the  
"old warhorse" is feeling about  
the matter. "Missing his work  
to sleep it warm." Expect!  
With the banquet, political dream  
scientific lectures, and from and  
red rumped frans, Lillies' trip  
to Melbourne must have been a wild  
whirl of excitement and enjoyment.  
Had a hearty laugh over your  
description of his adventures &  
sympathetic <sup>to his</sup> sympathy with the feelings  
which you must have experienced when  
he first went to Lond particularly

bloodthirsty and villainous assertions  
— and appealed to you for support!  
Lillies' return to Adelaide he  
has been plunging into mining,  
and sending excited telegrams ask-  
ing to join him in all sorts of  
speculations. I think they must  
have had him in hand praying  
for rain, or something of that  
sort, before he went to Melbourne  
and that his nature is now wildy  
trying to regain its original  
"sacredness". He will be full  
of news when he returns, and I  
expect to have a pleasant day  
or two with him before we  
start quarrelling.  
There will be no difficulty in  
getting you a decent specimen  
of Mr. Leela when rain falls,  
but at present the country



To the Eastward is very dry, and  
the fire cannot go out.

Speaking of the habits of Ugartak  
and Ur-keela, the natives say  
that while the Ugartak invariably  
occupies the inner extremity of his  
burrow, the Ur-keela during the  
cold weather lies within a foot  
or so of the entrance of his,  
and only uses the inner chamber  
during the summer. This peculiarity  
is taken advantage of by the  
natives who spring on the surface  
of the ground, behind the Ur-keela,  
breaking it in and cutting off  
his retreat to the inner chamber.  
He is thus compelled to rush out  
thru' the entrance, where a native  
is waiting to give him his quarters.  
The Ugartak cannot be captured  
in this manner, and has to be



Aug right out. Both species are nocturnal in their habits.

Sic transit Curcua! I'm afraid I must have unwittingly supplied the guileless natives with the idea of that black tip to the tail!

The Curcua and Tubaija are almost identical in their habits, and build similar nests of grass and twigs in shallow oval hollows scooped in the ground. They are captured in the same way, viz by placing one foot on the nest, pinning the animal, and then pulling him out with the hand.

By this post I am sending you male & female of *Cyprina* which were found in burrows about two miles from the station, female *Antechinus*, *Larapintar*, including female with



with Young, Notoryctes, and  
a Skin which I got from  
the Crown Point People as  
Laudel when I paid them  
Your Cheque. The Skin is  
that of a young animal, and  
is about one third larger when  
the beaver is mature. I suppose  
it is *Sclafrogei*.

There are no Natives east here,  
and very few on the Firths east  
of Crown Point, but farther  
up they are more numerous.  
I will try and get some.

Referring to *Crickcanda* and by me  
several old furs, including the  
best hunters inform me that  
both these species prey largely  
on Mus and *Stapalotis*. The

Younger Blacks cannot corroborate  
this, but I am inclined to

think that there is something in  
it - especially as you say that the  
condition ~~is~~ approaches that  
of *U. aspinus*.

You do not say what you think  
of the condition of the furs.  
Were they all right?

I have given up the idea of  
going out to the Musgrabs at  
Hudson's Bay. The furs during  
which I was away would be  
deducted from my share.

And as I have been nearly six  
years without a trip south,  
I feel that a visit to the land  
of faint furs and a few  
Red and Green furs would  
do me more good than prowling  
about the Western desert

with a Black boy. Summer is setting in rapidly



and the waters are drying at  
such a rate that if it does not  
rain before December I am  
afraid we will have to invoke  
the assistance of the Prince of  
N.S.M. whose Court-bone appears  
to be 'more effective' than that  
of our own Rainmakers -

Whether we get good rains or not  
we are sure to have a few thunderstorms  
and I will have the ruggers on  
the look out for tortoises and  
lizards -

The postage you speak of isn't worth  
mentioning. I seldom have such a  
convoisement as that by last mail,  
and it only amounts to a few shillings in  
twelve months! Besides I am rapidly  
amassing a fortune dealing in W.A. shares  
and if the luck continues you may see me  
blocking the way in Colindale about the middle of  
next year

Yours ever sincerely  
F. M. Lyons

Professor W. Baldwin Spencer