

Ceramiodactylus
Linnæus
Pinn. Arch. Pen.

Charlott's Waters
26th June 95

Dear Professor,

I was glad to hear that all the matter for the book was so nearly in readiness, and hope you will be able to publish in Melbourne. Horn should be content when it is in the printer's possession, and I expect you too will be relieved when it is off your hands.

I quite agree with what you say about Horn. No one should judge him any honor he may get, as he has done good work in bringing a comparatively unknown part of the world under the notice of Scientists - It is to be hoped that

that they want create a New Order and
make him a Knight Commander of the
Most distinguished Order of the
Merit Medal, because he happens
to be a full Pouched Australian!
Your intention with regard to the
full description of Notoryctes is
Oriskany, and I charitably suppose
that Stirling would have acted
likewise had the Positions been
reversed.

" " "
Many thanks for Darwinism, which
I thoroughly enjoyed. Wallace is
a wonderful man, and he makes
out a strong case for Natural
Selection as the superordinating cause
in the production of species, but I can't
follow him everywhere he leads.
It is true, that the extra vitality
of Man during the glacial period
is applied to the production of

colours and ornaments, which are
useless in the struggle for existence, is
difficult to understand when one considers
that the extra vitality is presumably supplied
and required for the reproduction
of the species. - Then his theory of
the origin of Spines does not appear
so reasonable as that the Spiny
Plants have adapted themselves to
the barren, and arid places which
as a rule, they inhabit. - In fact,
Animals that live in desert seem to
have been modified so that they can
live on their plants, and the camel
prefers the prickly acacias to plenty
of unprotected thorns. Again, he
idea that man made his first appearance
near the happy hunting grounds of the
Makahines, in a yellow condition,
which became darker when he
approached the Equator, and
lighter

tighter when he went towards the North Pole, does not explain how the Fuegians and Austrorians came by their last hides - What do you think of his views re the effects of Climate environment? And are you a believer in ^{the} heredity of acquired Characters?

Lillen was far from well while here, and as he has not yet recovered he will probably abandon his trip North and start for the big Smoke at once. During his stay he took several photos including some good ones of the "Rain Dance" and entered me into the mysteries of developing & fixing. I thought the work rather uninteresting and monotonous, but as he enlivened the time by paying eloquent tributes to the commanding genius of the "Nation"

"Nation Builders", as he calls the Colonial Statesmen to distinguish them from the ordinary sort known in Europe and elsewhere, I managed to get the proceedings out.

I am sending you four moles, a male and female *Cristicauda*, female *byrniei*, male and female *Antechinus*, assorted *Sminthopsis*, and a Jerboa like rodent with a tufted tail. What is the latter? If of any interest I can get you more as they are plentiful here now.

As it has been raining at intervals during the last fortnight and I have four old skins out I fully expect some more moles shortly. The *Cristicauda* and *byrniei* have four north west according to the blacks, but *Sminthopsis* are very numerous just at present. The jerboa like rodents are coming from the

the Sacton and they almost amount to
a plague here - I saw some the Crickanda
have lost some of their hair, but the others
brought them in a long way crummed into
a small bottle which I had to break to
extract them. I notice that they seem to
vary nearly as much in length and
thickness of tail as the Muntopis and
I would bygone be considered a Crickanda
form probably derived from P.
Crickanda?

You need not be afraid of my taking
as I am really beginning to take an
interest in these compound-beaked, and
only regret that there is not a greater
variety of them about.

I am keeping a look out for the
Clayton Animal, likewise the Yellow
Crackanda and Lencura.

Howle has not turned up, and
as rumour says that he has

had his hair cut, he may possibly
wait until he can appear in his
normal condition.

I have abandoned the trip that for
the present, as I cannot fit anyone
worth having to accompany me
Nears having glorious weather, not
too cold, with occasional showers
of rain - up to the present, mine index
has been registers, and the frost is
owing to a wheat field over that
beautiful vista. To the S. W.!

With kind regards -
Yours ever sincerely

P. M. Lyford

Professor W. B. Spencer