Occurrence in Australia of the Centipede Genus Asanada Meinert (Chilopoda, Scolopendridae, Scolopendrinae)

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A specimen from Line Hill, Queensland, in the collection of the Queensland Museum has been determined as Asanada brevicornis Meinert, 1886. The specimen fits the description and illustrations given by Attems (1930). This appears to constitute the first record of the genus in Australia. Line Hill (12°45′S, 143°21E) is in the Iron Range of north-eastern Queensland, and the specimen (Reg. No. QM S1317) was collected by Drs Valerie Davies and Robert Raven during 4-7 July 1976.

The genus Asanada Meinert, 1886, comprised four species according to Attems (1930); and Würmli (1972) and Lewis (1973) have described a few more. The genus was previously known from South and North Africa (including Guinea, Nigeria, Congo, Sudan, Eritrea, Palestine, and Socotra), India (Himalayas), Burma, Andaman Is, Philippines, Sumba, and New Guinea.

Asanada brevicornis is the type species of the genus. In order to clarify the present determination it is pointed out that Attems (1930) synonymized A. brevicornis var. afra Silvestri, 1918, as A. socotrana Pocock, 1899, and regarded South African forms identified as A. brevicornis by Attems (1928) as belonging to this species. However, Lawrence (1955) regarded all these as belonging to the subspecies A. socotrana kalaharina Lawrence, 1936; whereas Lewis (1967, but not in some later papers) treats them as A. socotrana attemsi Lewis, 1967. A. brevicornis is therefore not recognized from Africa; the distribution of this species thus includes India, Burma, Andaman Is, New Guinea, and now Australia.

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Short Communication

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Reviews, observations and results of research into all branches of natural science and human studies will be considered for publication. However, emphasis is placed on studies pertaining to Western Australia. Full length papers should not normally exceed 30 typed pages. Short communications should not normally exceed three typed pages and this category of paper is intended to accommodate observations, results or new records of significance, that otherwise might not get into the literature, or for which there is a particular urgency for publication. All material must be original and not have been published elsewhere.

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CONTENTS

Jones, H.I.	
Prevalence and Intensity of Abbreviata Travassos (Nematoda: Physalopteridae) in the Ridge-tailed Monitor Varanus acanthurus Boulenger in Northern Australia	1
McDowall, R.M. and Pusey, B.J. Lepidogalaxias salamandroides Mees — A Redescription, with Natural History Notes	11
Johnstone, R.E. A Review of the Mangrove Kingfisher, Halcyon chloris (Boddaert) in Australia, with a Description of a New Subspecies from Western Australia	25
Hutchins, J.B. Redescription of the Clingfish Cochleoceps spatula (Gobiesocidae) from Western Australia and South Australia, with the Description of a New Species from Victoria and Tasmania	33
Bunn, Stuart E. and Stoddart, James A. A New Species of the Prosobranch Gastropod Glacidorbis and its Implications for the Biogeography of South-Western Australia	49
Storr, G.M. Two New Lizards from Western Australia (Genera Diplodactylus and Lerista)	59
Clarke, J. An Aboriginal Engraving Site in the South-West of Western Australia	63
SHORT COMMUNICATIONS	
Dell, John Additions to the Vertebrate Fauna of Bendering Nature Reserve	71
McNamara, K.J. and Bryce, C. Habitats of the Heart Urchins Protenaster and Rhynobrissus	73
Koch, L.E. Occurrence in Australia of the Centipede Genus Asanada Meinert (Chilopoda, Scolopendridae, Scolopendrinae)	75