

Wednesday Walk/Drive – South Forest Way, Tallaganda Forest – 1 May 2013

Talaganda Forest (and National Park) is east of Captains Flat. Our first stop was at the top of the main range at Parkers Gap where the Cowangerong Fire Trail begins. This was actually Tallaganda National Park. We noticed a track heading north which we started to follow into tall forest - mainly *Eucalyptus radiata* and *E. viminalis*, along with *Acacia melanoxylon*, *A. dealbata*, *Pittosporum bicolor*, *Tasmannia lanceolata*, *Olearia megalophylla*, *Acrotriche divaricata*, *Leucopogon lanceolatus*, *Lomatia myricoides*, *Dianella tasmanica* and many other things, including a few we couldn't put names to. Unfortunately we were providing a feed for many leeches so we left and continued down the eastern side of the range to South Forest Way, stopping on the corner for morning tea and to renew our acquaintance with *E. ovata*. Also there were *E. obliqua*, *Solanum aviculare* with many yellow fruit, *Goodia lotifolia*, *Xerochrysum bracteatum* (some flowers), the first of the *Dicksonia antarctica* and many things we'd already seen. We made 4 more stops in total - where our lead car saw something of interest. At one point we found ourselves in a slightly drier area where we had *Allocasuarina littoralis*, also *Banksia marginata* and *Hibbertia obtusifolia* both flowering well. At our lunch spot we added *Hakea eriantha*, *Acacia falciformis*, *Pomaderris aspera* and *Stellaria flaccida*. Our final stop yielded a few extra species including some bushes of *Choretrum candolleanum* in flower. We also saw *Brachyscome spathulata* and *Acacia ulicifolia* - both flowering - *Podolobium ilicifolium*, *Polyscias sambucifolia*, *Persoonia linearis* (lots of fruit and a few flowers), *Billardiera* sp., *Clematis glycinoides*, *Acacia obliquinervia* and many other things.



Leech Track at Parkers Gap Image by Roger Farrow



***Tasmannia lanceolata* berries** Image by Roger Farrow



Solanum aviculare Image by Martin Butterfield



Leaves of *Eucalyptus ovata* Image by Martin Butterfield



Xerochrysum bracteatum Image by Roger Farrow



Lagenophora stipitata Image by Martin Butterfield



Senecio linearifolius Image by Martin Butterfield



Allocasuarina littoralis Image by Roger Farrow



Stellaria flaccida Image by Roger Farrow



Acacia ulicifolia Image by Roger Farrow



Banksia marginata Image by
Martin Butterfield



Hakea eriantha Image by
Roger Farrow



Hakea eriantha fruit Image by
Roger Farrow



Persoonia linearis Image by
Roger Farrow



Persoonia linearis flowers
Image by Roger Farrow



Persoonia linearis fruit Image
by Roger Farrow



Choretrum candolleanum Image by
Roger Farrow



Choretrum candolleanum Image by
Roger Farrow

Plant List for South Forest Way – Tallaganda Forest – 1 May 2013

? indicates that those present were unsure of the plant name

1st stop Parkers Gap

Acacia dealbata
Acacia melanoxylon
Acaena novae-zelandiae
Acrothamnus hookeri
Acrotriche divaricata
Brachyscome spathulata
Callicoma serratifolia
Coprosma quadrifida
Cotula alpina
Daviesia ulicifolia
Dianella tasmanica
Elaeocarpus holopetalus
Eucalyptus dalrympleana
Eucalyptus radiata
Eucalyptus viminalis
Exocarpos cupressiformis
Helichrysum rutidolepis
Leucopogon lanceolatus
Lomandra longifolia
Lomatia myricoides
Olearia megalophylla
Pittosporum bicolor
Pteridium esculentum
Smilax australis
Stellaria pungens
Tasmannia lanceolata
Viola hederacea

Acacia melanoxylon
Amyema miquelii
Austrostipa sp.
Bursaria spinosa ssp. lasiophylla
Cassinia aculeata
Clematis aristata
Coprosma hirtella
Coprosma quadrifida
Cymbonotus lawsonianus
Daviesia ulicifolia
Desmodium varians
Dianella tasmanica
Dichondra repens
Dicksonia antarctica
Eucalyptus fastigata
Eucalyptus obliqua
Eucalyptus ovata
Exocarpos cupressiformis
Geranium sp.
Glycine clandestina
Goodia lotifolia
Helichrysum rutidolepis
Hovea heterophylla
Hydrocotyle laxiflora
Hypericum gramineum
Indigofera australis
Lagenophora stipitata
Leucopogon lanceolatus
Lomandra longifolia
Microlaena stipoides

2nd stop Corner of South Forest Way

Olearia megalophylla
Opercularia hispida
Oreomyrrhis eriopoda
Plantago debilis
Poa labillardierei
Poa meionectes
Pteridium esculentum
Ranunculus lappaceus
Senecio linearifolius
Smilax australis
Solanum aviculare
Viola betonicifolia
Wahlenbergia stricta
Xerochrysum bracteatum

3rd stop damp gully

Acacia melanoxylon
Asperula scoparia
Blechnum sp.
Cassinia longifolia
Centipeda cunninghamii
Cotula alpina
Cymbonotus lawsonianus
Dianella tasmanica
Dichondra repens
Dicksonia antarctica
Eucalyptus obliqua
Eucalyptus viminalis
Exocarpos strictus
Gahnia sp.
Gonocarpus micranthus
Gratiola peruviana
Hydrocotyle laxiflora
Lagenophora stipitata
Leptospermum lanigerum
Leucopogon lanceolatus
Olearia megalophylla
Persicaria prostrata
Poa helmsii
Poa meionectes
Prunella vulgaris
Pteridium esculentum
Ranunculus lappaceus
Ranunculus plebeius
Rubus parvifolius
Senecio linearifolius
Smilax australis
Stellaria pungens
Xerochrysum bracteatum

4th stop

Acacia melanoxylon
Allocasuarina littoralis
Banksia marginata
Clematis aristata

Cymbonotus lawsonianus
Dianella tasmanica
Eucalyptus dalrympleana
Eucalyptus radiata
Eucalyptus viminalis
Glycine clandestina
Gonocarpus tetragynus
Goodia lotifolia
Hardenbergia violacea
Hibbertia obtusifolia
Leucopogon lanceolatus
Lomandra longifolia
Olearia megalophylla
Poa labillardierei
Poa meionectes
Pteridium esculentum
Stellaria flaccida
Veronica calycina
Wahlenbergia ? ceracea

5th stop – lunch

Acacia falciformis
Acacia melanoxylon
Acaena novae-zelandiae
Dianella tasmanica
Eucalyptus obliqua
Euchiton sphaericus
Glycine clandestina
Goodia lotifolia
Hakea eriantha
Hydrocotyle laxiflora
Leucopogon lanceolatus
Lomandra longifolia
Plantago debilis
Pomaderris aspera
Prostanthera lasianthos
Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum
Pteridium esculentum
Stellaria flaccida
Stellaria pungens
Veronica calycina
Viola hederacea
Xerochrysum bracteatum

6th stop – road to old hut

Acacia dealbata
Acacia melanoxylon
Acacia obliquinervia
Acacia ulicifolia
Billardiera scandens
Brachyscome spathulata
Bursaria spinosa ssp. lasiophylla
Choretrum candollei
Clematis aristata
Clematis glycinoides

Coprosma quadrifida
Cymbohotus lawsonianus
Desmodium gunnii
Dicksonia antarctica
Eucalyptus radiata
Eucalyptus viminalis
Exocarpus cupressiformis
Exocarpus strictus
Gahnia sp.
Gonocarpus micranthus
Hardenbergia violacea
Helichrysum leucopsideum
Hibbertia obtusifolia
Indigofera australis
Leptospermum myrtifolium
Leucopogon lanceolatus
Lomandra longifolia
Monotoca scoparia
Olearia erubescens
Oreomyrrhis eriopoda
Persoonia linearis
Podolobium ilicifolium
Poa helmsii
Polyscias sambucifolia
Prostanthera lasianthos
Senecio linearifolius

Smilax australis
Solenogyne gunnii
Stellaria pungens
Stylium graminifolium
Viola betonicifolia
Viola hederacea

Bird List

Yellow-tailed black-cockatoo
Crimson Rosella
Superb Lyrebird
Golden whistler
Grey shrike thrush
Striated thornbill
Brown thornbill
White-browed scrubwren
Superb Fairy-wren
White-throated treecreeper
White-naped honeyeater
Brown-headed honeyeater
Yellow-faced honeyeater
White-eared Honeyeater
Red wattlebird
White-winged chough
Pied Currawong
Australian Magpie

The Greek Connection at Tallaganda

Those of you who braved the leeches on the first walk up the forest track may remember all those “droppings” we saw on the leaves on the ground at the edge of the track. I thought they may have fallen from the canopy as the trees above, mostly mountain gum, were heavily defoliated. I had the impression that some of them were moving and I thought I must be “seeing” things! But I was right when I enlarged my images on my computer that evening.

Each “dropping” is actually a small opened-ended case with a larva living within. The only insects fitting this description are the larvae of Cryptocephaline leaf beetles. Unlike the larvae of most other leaf beetles in the family Chrysomelidae that live and feed on live eucalypt leaves in the canopy, these live on the ground and feed on freshly fallen eucalypt leaves that they skeletonise. The sac-like case is made of their faecal pellets. There is only one exit to the case and their body is bent in a “U” shape so they can feed and defecate from the same hole. The head is flattened and sclerotized (hardened surface) and can effectively plug the entrance to the case. The adult beetles feed on living eucalypt leaves in the canopy like other eucalypt leaf beetles. There are more than 500 species in this sub-family.

The larvae are rarely noticed except when in large numbers. My colleague Chris Reid from the Australian Museum has written a paper on an outbreak of a species of *Cadmus*, *C. aurantiacus*, that caused quite a lot of damage to eucalypt seedlings. Although I did not notice any adult beetles in the area, he suggested that it is almost certain that the Tallaganda larvae belong to this species. The genus is endemic to Australia. The larvae may play an important role in the recycling of nutrients in the litter by helping break down fallen eucalypt leaves. Next time you see a lot of skeletonized leaves on the ground check out these larvae.

For those of you who have a knowledge of or interest in Greek Mythology, Cadmus or Kadmos in [Greek](#) mythology was a Phoenician prince, the son of king [Agenor](#) and queen [Telephassa](#) of [Tyre](#) and brother of Europa. He was originally sent by his royal parents to seek out and escort his sister Europa back to Tyre after she was abducted from the shores of [Phoenicia](#) by [Zeus](#). Cadmus founded the Greek city of [Thebes](#), the [acropolis](#) of which was originally named *Cadmeia* in his honor. Cadmus was credited by the ancient Greeks with introducing the original [Phoenician alphabet](#) to the Greeks, who adapted it to form their [Greek alphabet](#). Herodotus estimates that Cadmus lived around 2000 BC. (Source Wikipedia). I don’t know the type species of *Cadmus* but the name was given by the entomologist Wilhelm Ferdinand Erichson of Germany (1809-1849) in

1842 but the reasons for the choice of the name of a mythical Greek prince for these beetles escapes me so perhaps someone will enlighten me.



Larvae of *Cadmus aurantiacus* skeletonising a freshly fallen eucalypt leaf. Tallaganda



Infestation of *C. aurantiacus* in the forest litter concentrating along a newly fallen, leafy eucalypt branch.



Close up of larval cases. The centre one showing the top of the head blocking the entrance to the case. 43 mm long



Cadmus alternans a species similar in appearance to *C. aurantiacus*. Length 5 mm. Feeding on the edge of a eucalypt leaf. Dead Horse Track Kosciuszko NP.



A skeletonised leaf on the forest floor, a good indicator of the presence of a Cryptocephaline beetle.