12. THE BOTANICAL ACTIVITIES OF MAX KOCH.

By


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The late Max Koch, who died at Pemberton, Western Australia, on the 1st April, 1925, was well known as a botanical collector in Europe, America and Australia. He was born on 17th July, 1854, in Berlin, Germany, and at an early age entered a merchant’s office as an apprentice. Office work, however, did not appeal to him, so that eventually he signed-on in Bremen-haven in October, 1877, on a Glasgow sailing ship, and came to Australia. Leaving the ship at Port Augusta, South Australia, in April, 1878, he went to work on wheat farms, and found this life very congenial. Later on he went to Mount Lyndhurst Sheep Station for a change: here, in 1888, he married, and was employed as a boundary rider until 1901. During this year he left Australia and returned to Germany on a holiday trip. In 1904 he left South Australia and came to Western Australia, where he spent the remainder of his life. For the seventeen years subsequent to 1904 he was employed by Saw Milling companies in the South-West of Western Australia.

His botanical activities between the years 1908 and 1925 were considerable. Taking into consideration that all of this work was carried out in his very limited spare time, the performance is outstanding. The work, however, was a labour of love, and the incentive of increasing his income, and thus enabling him to keep a large family in comfortable circumstances, impelled Max Koch to turn every minute to the best use. He certainly had no idle moments. Apart from collecting herbarium specimens, he sold seeds of Australian plants to nurserymen and private persons in appreciable amounts. In the course of correspondence with me extending over many years, he mentioned that the late Mr. J. H. Maiden, Government Botanist, Sydney, had been his oldest correspondent. Mr. Maiden identified the greater part of his South Australian collections, and also a number of his Western Australian plants, among which several new species were traced, named and described. Ten sets of the Mount Lyndhurst plants were forwarded to Mr. Maiden, and were used for exchange with other countries to assist in the construction of the Sydney Herbarium. Mr. Maiden also purchased seeds and carpological specimens of all kinds, and purchased a full set of Western Australian plants and seeds.

In addition to the above the following Institutions and persons received specimens from Max Koch:—

Botanic Gardens, Adelaide
Seven sets of plants from Mt. Lyndhurst, and seeds, also two sets of W.A. plants.

Botanic Gardens, Melbourne
Seeds.

Department of Agriculture, Hobart
Full set of South Australian plants, and 100 specimens from Western Australia.
J. W. Audas.

Botanic Gardens, Brisbane
Department of Agriculture, Wellington, N.Z.
Adelaide University
Department of Agriculture, Perth
Perth Museum
Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh
Botanisk e Have, Christiania
Bergens Museum, Norway
Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris
Stadt Museum, Bremen
Botanic Gardens, Berlin
K. K. Hof. Museum, Vienna
Botanic Gardens, Vienna
University of Toronto
Gray Herbarium, Cambridge, U.S.A.
Pringle Herbarium, Burlington, U.S.A.
University of Minnesota, U.S.A.
University of Nebraska, Lincoln, U.S.A.
Botanic Gardens, St. Louis, U.S.A.
Arnold Arboretum, U.S.A.
Science and Arts Institution, Dublin
Botanic Gardens, Ofen Pest, Hungary
Botanische Staats Institute, Hamburg
Dr. L. Diels, Botanic Gardens, Berlin
Dr. Radlfoffer, Munich
Dr. Goldschmidt, Essen

400 sheets of Western Australian plants.
200 sheets of specimens.
Full set of South Australian plants.
South Australian and Cowcowing (W.A.) plants.
Set of types of new species collected in W.A.
Set of all specimens collected until 1914.
Set of S.A. and W.A. plants.
400 sets of W.A. plants and carpological specimens.
Set of W.A. and S.A. plants.
Full set of W.A. and S.A. plants.
Full set of S.A. plants, and seeds from W.A.
Full set of S.A. plants, and seeds from W.A.
Western Australian seeds.
Set of Western Australian specimens.
250 sheets of Western Australian plants.
400
215
200

100 sheets of Western Australian plants.
100 sheets of woody plants.
200 sheets of Western Australian plants.
100 sheets of South Australian plants.
300 sheets of Western Australian plants.
300

100 sheets of South Australian plants.
Bulbs of terrestrial orchids.

Localities where Mr. Koch collected in South Australia:

1896–1900—Village Well on Mt. Lyndhurst Station via Farina (Nos. 1 to 400)
1901—Near Port Pirie, South Australia (Nos. 401 to 600)
1902–1903—Near Adelaide, Mt. Lofty Ranges, Brighton. Cooke’s Plains, Ninety-Mile Desert (Nos. 753 to 973)

Species.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Localities</th>
<th>Number of Specimens</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1896–1900</td>
<td>Village Well on Mt. Lyndhurst Station via Farina (Nos. 1 to 400)</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901</td>
<td>Near Port Pirie, South Australia (Nos. 401 to 600)</td>
<td>200</td>
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<tr>
<td>1902–1903</td>
<td>Near Adelaide, Mt. Lofty Ranges, Brighton. Cooke’s Plains, Ninety-Mile Desert (Nos. 753 to 973)</td>
<td>220</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Total 820
The material collected at Mt. Lyndhurst was taken in large quantities, also that from Port Pirie and near Adelaide to supply many subscribers.

Localities where Mr. Koch collected in Western Australia:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Localities</th>
<th>Species</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1904</td>
<td>June to November, Cowcowing district (Nos. 974 to 1292)</td>
<td>310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1905</td>
<td>January to November, No. 2 Rabbit Fence, 50 miles east of Watheroo Railway Station (Nos. 1293 to 1385)</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td>1906-1908</td>
<td>Wooroloo, also Darling Ranges (Nos. 1386 to 1851)</td>
<td>465</td>
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<td>1908-1915</td>
<td>Lowden, Preston Valley, also Donnybrook, Bus- selton, Kirup and Armadale (Nos. 1852 to 2222)</td>
<td>335</td>
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<tr>
<td>1913</td>
<td>Kukerin, a few days only (Nos. 2175 to 2217)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1916-1923</td>
<td>Pemberton, Big Brook, Jarnadup, Palgarup, Man- jimup (Nos. 2224 to 2865)</td>
<td>460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923-1924</td>
<td>Merredin, Yerbillon, Hines' Hill (Nos. 2686 to 3035)</td>
<td>350</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>2,880</td>
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</table>

The following new species were collected by Mr. Koch near Village Well Mt. Lyndhurst Station, in South Australia:


New species found in Western Australia, 1904 to 1923-24:

graminea, Ewart. No. 1509, Podolepis Spenceri, Ewart. No. 1196
Angiantthus axiliflorus (W. V. Fitzgerald), Ewart & White. No. 1873,
Angiantthus lanigerus, Ewart & White. No. 1553, Helipterum album,
1239, Scirpus Kochii, Maiden & Betch; Eucalyptus transcontinentalis,
Maiden—Total 33 species.

New varieties found in Western Australia:—
No. 1083—Eriostemon tuberculatus, F. v. M. var. megaphyllus, Ewart
No. 1229—Baeckea crispiflora, F. v. M. var. tenior, Ewart.
No. 1001—Eucalyptus oleosa, F. v. M. var. glabra, Maiden.
No. 989—Eucalyptus calycogona, Turcz. var. gracilis, Maiden.
No. 1546—Galium parisiense, L. var. australi, Ewart.
No. 1024—Acacia leptoneura, Benth. var. eremophila, Ewart & White.
No. 1087—Olearia homolepis, F. v. M. var. pilosa, Ewart.
No. 1347—Styphelia elegans, D. C. var. brevior, Ewart & White
No. 1359—Eremophila Woodsiiana, F. v. M. var. dentata, Ewart &
White.
No. 1944—Caladenia latifolia, R. Br. var. glandula, Ewart & White.
No. 1322—Conostylis aurea, Lindl. var. longiscapa, Ewart.
No. 1056—Hakea sulcata, R. Br. var. intermedia, Ewart & White.
No. 2086—Calothamnus homalophyllus, F. v. M. var. angustifolia,
Ewart.
No. 1144—Triglochin mucronata, R. Br. var. longifolia, Ewart.