

AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

Musgrave, A., 1920. Obituary William Joseph Rainbow. *Records of the Australian Museum* 13(3): 87–92. [4 December 1920].

doi:10.3853/j.0067-1975.13.1920.858

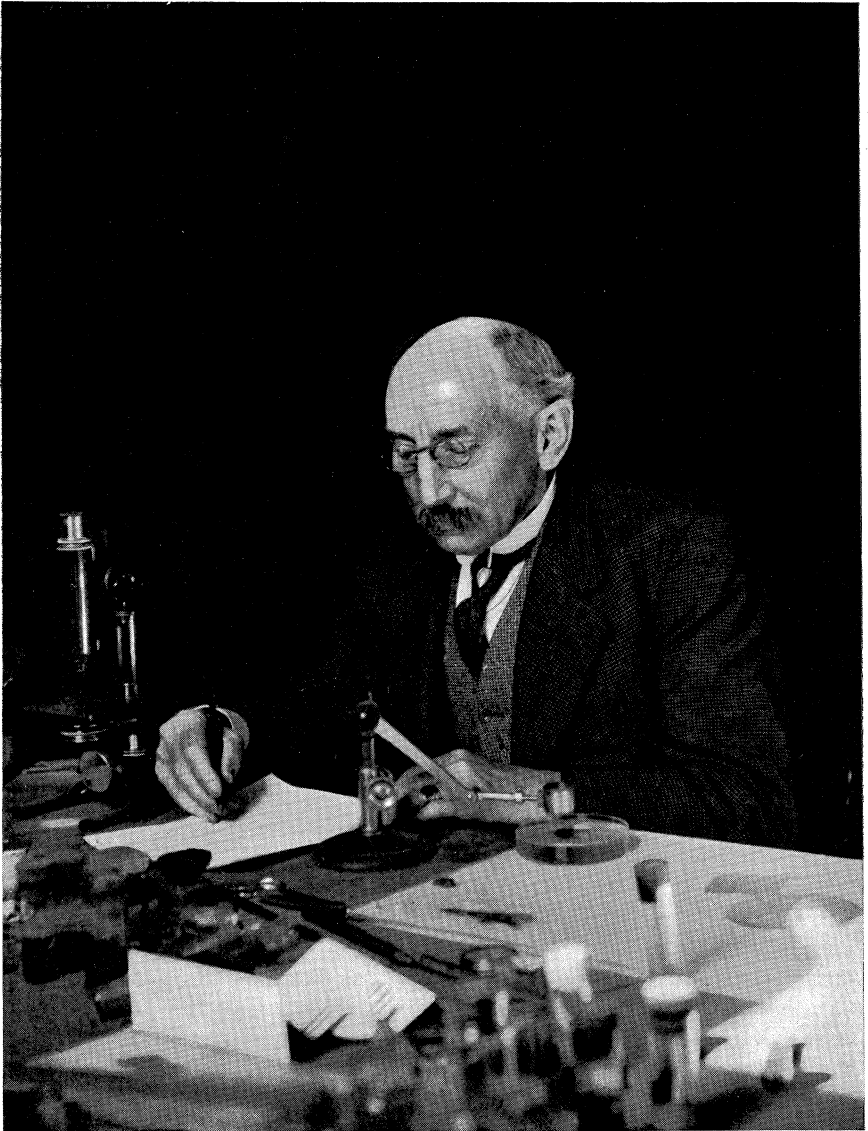
ISSN 0067-1975

Published by the Australian Museum, Sydney

nature culture **discover**

Australian Museum science is freely accessible online at
www.australianmuseum.net.au/publications/
6 College Street, Sydney NSW 2010, Australia





WILLIAM JOSEPH RAINBOW

FROM A RECENT PORTRAIT.

A. MUSGRAVE, Photo.

OBITUARY.

WILLIAM JOSEPH RAINBOW.

Entomologist, 1895 to 1919.

After a long and painful illness Mr. William Joseph Rainbow, Entomologist, to the Australian Museum, passed away on the 21st November, 1919, at the age of 63.

Of Mr. Rainbow's early life and his entrance into the field of Entomology a few notes will doubtless prove of interest.

Mr. Rainbow was born in Yorkshire in 1856, and as his father was a Warrant Officer in the Royal Marines he spent much of his boyhood in the naval towns. It was in these towns and also in Edinburgh that he received most of his education. In 1873 he left England with his parents for New Zealand, and on the long sea voyage out young Rainbow acted as schoolmaster to the numerous children on the emigrant ship. On arrival in New Zealand he took up newspaper work, and was for some years on the literary staff of the "Wanganui Herald," edited and owned by Mr. John Ballance who in later years was destined to become the Premier of the Colony.

It was to Mr. Ballance that Mr. Rainbow was indebted for help and encouragement in furthering his studies in Natural History, a subject in which he appears to have shown an early interest. It is doubtless to this encouragement on the part of his chief that Mr. Rainbow's eminent position in science is due.

In 1883 Mr. Rainbow arrived in Sydney from New Zealand and during the year married Arriette Dainty of New Zealand. For some years he served on the staffs of the "Daily Telegraph," "Sydney Morning Herald," "Evening News" and other prominent local journals.

Mr. Rainbow subsequently abandoned journalistic work for a position in the Government Printing Office, from which service he withdrew in 1895 to fill the post of entomologist to the Australian Museum. During his career as entomologist to this institution, Mr. Rainbow contributed many papers to science embodying the results of his entomological and arachnological researches. His papers total 71 in number, and he also published two brochures "A Guide to the Study of Australian Butterflies" and "Mosquitoes: Their Habits and Distribution." The majority of his papers are devoted to the order Arachnida, a group which has always met with little favour in the eyes of naturalists. It is by his labours on this important branch of biological science that Mr. Rainbow's name will be remembered. He was long regarded as the leading authority in Australia on this group and his death robs science of one of her ablest workers. When we realise under what great physical disabilities Mr. Rainbow laboured, we cannot but highly commend the spirit with which he was endowed, for he was at all times of a genial and sunny nature and showed a devotion to duty even when racked with suffering.

Mr. Rainbow was for years a member of the Linnean Society of New South Wales and was also on the Council of the Royal Zoological Society of New South Wales. He was one of the original founders of the Naturalists' Society of New South Wales, and was on the Council up to the time of his death. He was also a Fellow of the Entomological Society of London, a Fellow of the Linnean Society of London, and a Membre de la Société Entomologique de France.

The last few years of Mr. Rainbow's life were beset with trials and anxieties. His second son, Sergeant Oscar A. Rainbow, who had enlisted early in the war was killed at the Dardanelles on May 25th, 1915. Mr. Rainbow's wife never recovered from the shock and it undoubtedly hastened her decease, which occurred on June 6th, 1917. His youngest son Sergeant Eric Rainbow enlisted in Carmichael's Second Thousand and during his absence abroad Mr. Rainbow's health completely failed. He ultimately succumbed to his malady on the 21st November, 1919, his son arriving from England a few days after his death.

Mr. Rainbow leaves two sons to mourn his loss, Mr. William A. Rainbow, Librarian to the Australian Museum, and Mr. Eric Rainbow.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

- 1.—Descriptions of some new Araneidæ of New South Wales, No. 1. *Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.Wales* (2), vii., 4, 1893, pp. 471-476, pl. xii.
- 2.—*Idem.*, No. 2. *Op. cit.*, viii., 1, 1893, pp. 16-24, pl. iii.
- 3.—*Idem.*, No. 3. *Op. cit.*, viii., 2, 1894, pp. 287-294, pl. x.
- 4.—*Idem.*, No. 4. *Op. cit.*, ix., 1, 1894, pp. 153-157, pl. x.
- 5.—*Idem.*, No. 5. *Op. cit.*, x., 2, 1895, pp. 347-360, pls. xxii.-xxiii.
- 6.—*Idem.*, No. 6. *Op. cit.*, xxi., 3, 1896, pp. 320-344, pls. xviii.-xx.
- 7.—*Idem.*, No. 7. *Op. cit.*, xxi., 4, 1897, pp. 628-633, pl. xlix.
- 8.—Contributions to a Knowledge of the Arachnidan Fauna of Australia, No. 1. *Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.Wales*, xxi., 4, 1897, pp. 634-636, pl. xlix.
- 9.—Descriptions of some new Araneidæ of New South Wales, No. 8. *Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.Wales*, xxii., 3, 1898, pp. 514-553, pls. xvii.-xviii.
- 10.—The Insect Fauna of Funafuti. *Mem. Austr. Mus.*, iii., 2, 1897, pp. 89-102, pl. i.
- 11.—The Arachnidan Fauna of Funafuti. *Tom. cit.*, pp. 105-124, pls. ii.-v.
- 12.—Description of Two new Australian Phasmas, together with a Synopsis of the Phasmidæ in Australia. *Rec. Austr. Mus.*, iii., 2, 1897, pp. 34-37, pls. ix.-x.
- 13.—Catalogue of the described Phasmidæ of Australia. *Tom. cit.*, pp. 37-44.
- 14.—Description of the Larva of *Pseudoterpna percomptaria*, Gn. *Rec. Austr. Mus.*, iii., 4, 1898, pp. 81-82, pl. xviii.
- 15.—Description of a new Araneiad. *Tom. cit.*, pp. 82-83, pl. xviii.
- 16.—Notes and Observations on the Range of Vision in some Araneidæ. *Austr. Assoc. Adv. Sci., Report* vii., Sydney, 1898, pp. 655-661.

- 17.—The Insecta and Arachnida of the County of Cumberland. *Austr. Assoc. Adv. Sci.*, Sydney, 1898—*Handbook of Sydney*, pp. 143-150.
- 18.—Contribution to a Knowledge of the Arachnidan Fauna of British New Guinea. *Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.Wales*, xxiii., 3, 1898, pp. 328-356, pl. vii.
- 19.—Contribution to a Knowledge of Papuan Arachnida. *Rec. Austr. Mus.*, iii., 5, 1899, pp. 108-118, three text-figures.
- 20.—The Queensland Cattle Tick. *Tom. cit.*, pp. 131-133.
- 21.—Descriptions of Two Beetles from Mount Kosciusko. *Rec. Austr. Mus.*, iii., 6, 1899, pp. 147-149, two text-figures.
- 22.—Larva and Pupa of *Batocera wallacei*, Thoms. *Tom. cit.*, p. 150.
- 23.—Contribution to a Knowledge of the Araneidan Fauna of Santa Cruz. *Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.Wales*, xxiv., 2, 1899, pp. 304-321, pls. xxiv.-xxv.
- 24.—Descriptions of some new Araneidæ of New South Wales, No. 9. *Op. cit.*, xxv., 3, 1900, pp. 483-494, pls. xxiii.-xxiv.
- 25.—Two new Thomisids. *Rec. Austr. Mus.*, iii., 7, 1900, pp. 169-175, pl. xxx.
- 26.—Notes on the Architecture, Nesting Habits, and Life-histories of Australian Araneidæ, based on Specimens in the Australian Museum, Part 1. The Territelariæ. *Rec. Austr. Mus.*, iv., 1, 1901, pp. 5-12.
- 27.—*Idem.*, Part 2. The Cribellatæ. *Op. cit.*, iv., 3, 1901, pp. 135-142, four text-figures.
- 28.—*Idem.*, Part 3. The Ecribellatæ: Haplogynæ. *Op. cit.*, iv., 7, 1902, pp. 312-316, four text-figures.
- 29.—Arachnida from the South Seas. *Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.Wales*, xxvi., 4, 1902, pp. 521-532, pl. xxviii.
- 30.—Descriptions of some new Araneidæ of New South Wales, No. 10. *Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.Wales*, xxvii., 3, 1902, pp. 484-492, pl. xviii.
- 31.—Notes on the Zoology of Paanopa or Ocean Island and Nauru or Pleasant Island, Gilbert Group. The Arthropoda. *Rec. Austr. Mus.*, v., 1, 1903, pp. 5-7.
- 32.—Notes on Fleas parasitic on the Tiger Cat. *Tom. cit.*, pp. 53-55.
- 33.—Studies in Australian Araneidæ, No. 1. *Tom. cit.*, pp. 62-66.
- 34.—A new "Bat Tick." *Rec. Austr. Mus.*, v., 2, 1904, pp. 78-79, pl. ix.
- 35.—Studies in Australian Araneidæ, No. 2. *Tom. cit.*, pp. 102-107, six text-figures.
- 36.—Australian Cicadidæ. The Mating of *Cyclochila australasiæ*, Don., and *Thopha saccata*, Amyot. *Tom. cit.*, pp. 116-117, pl. xi.
- 37.—Note on *Cicindela jungi*, and Descriptions of Two new Beetles. *Rec. Austr. Mus.*, v., 4, 1904, pp. 245-247, three text-figures.
- 38.—The Larvæ of *Doratifera casta*, Scott, *Tom. cit.*, pp. 253-254, pl. xxix.
- 39.—Notes on the Architecture, Nesting Habits, and Life-histories of Australian Araneidæ, based on Specimens in the Australian Museum, Part 4. The Entelegynæ, *Rec. Austr. Mus.*, v., 5, 1904, pp. 317-325, three text-figures.
- 40.—Studies in Australian Araneidæ, No. 3. *Tom. cit.*, pp. 326-336, pl. xlvi., and three text-figures.

- 41.—*Idem.*, No. 4. *Rec. Austr. Mus.*, vi., 1, 1905, pp. 9-12, pl. iii., one text-figure.
- 42.—Notes on the Architecture, Nesting Habits, and Life-histories of Australian Araneidæ, based on Specimens in the Australian Museum, Part 5. The Entelegynæ (continued). *Rec. Austr. Mus.*, vi., 1, 1905, pp. 22-28, one text-figure.
- 43.—Notes on Australian Siphonaptera. *Op. cit.*, vi., 2, 1905, pp. 101-109, pl. xxiii., five text-figures.
- 44.—A Synopsis of Australian Acarina. *Op. cit.*, vi., 3, 1906, pp. 145-193, five text-figures.
- 45.—A Guide to the Study of Australian Butterflies. Melbourne, 1907, pp. 1-272, pls. i.-vii., one hundred and eighty-four text-figures.
- 46.—Two new Species of Australian Collembola. *Rec. Austr. Mus.*, vi., 4, 1907, pp. 313-314, four text-figures.
- 47.—Notes on the Architecture, Nesting Habits, and Life-histories of Australian Araneidæ, based on Specimens in the Australian Museum, Part 6. The Entelegynæ (continued). *Rec. Austr. Mus.*, vi., 5, 1907, pp. 330-338, two text-figures.
- 48.—Studies in Australian Araneidæ, No. 5. *Op. cit.*, vii., 1, 1908, pp. 44-50, four text-figures.
- 49.—Notes on Mimicry and Variation. *Op. cit.*, vii., 2, 1908, pp. 69-73, one coloured plate.
- 50.—Mosquitoes: their Habits and Distribution. Melbourne, 1908, pp. 1-67, pl. i., fifteen text-figures.
- 51.—Notes on the Architecture, Nesting Habits, and Life-histories of Australian Araneidæ, based on Specimens in the Australian Museum, Part 7. The Entelegynæ (continued). *Rec. Austr. Mus.*, vii., 4, 1909, pp. 212-234, pls. lxii.-lxiv., three text-figures.
- 52.—A Census of Australian Araneidæ. *Op. cit.*, ix., 2, 1911, pp. 107-319.
- 53.—Australian Entomological Literature in 1910. *Zeits. wiss. Insektenbiol.*, vii., 10, 1911, pp. 324-325.
- 54.—Araneidæ from the Blackall Ranges. *Mem. Queensl. Mus.*, i., 1912, pp. 190-202, sixteen text-figures.
- 55.—Some Araneidæ from the Roper River, Northern Territory. *Tom. cit.*, pp. 203-209, three text-figures.
- 56.—Note on *Dolomedes trux*, Lamb. *Tom. cit.*, p. 210, three text-figures.
- 57.—Australian Entomological Literature für 1911. *Zeits. wiss. Insektenbiol.*, vii., 6/7, 1912, pp. 242-244, 11, 1912, pp. 363-365.
- 58.—Arachnida from the Solomon Islands. *Rec. Austr. Mus.*, x., 1, 1913, pp. 1-16, six text-figures.
- 59.—Studies in Australian Araneidæ, No. 6. The Terretelariæ. *Op. cit.*, x., 8, 1914, pp. 187-270, seventy-five text-figures.
- 60.—A new Victorian Araneiad. *Austral Zool.*, i., 1, 1914, pp. 21-23, three text-figures.
- 61.—Two Beetles apparently new to Australia. *Op. cit.*, i., 2, 1915, p. 46.
- 62.—Scientific Notes on an Expedition into the North-Western Regions of S. Australia. (*h*) Arachnida. *Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Australia*, xxxix., 1915, pp. 772-793, pls. lxxvii.-lxxviii,

- 63.—Notes on the Fauna of the Botanic Gardens. Arachnida, Myriapoda, Insecta. *N.S. Wales Legislative Assembly. Botanic Gardens and Govt. Domains Report*, 1914, pp. 10-18.
- 64.—Some new Araneidæ from the County of Cumberland. *Austr. Zool.*, i., 3, 1916, pp. 58-60, four text-figures.
- 65.—Arachnida from Northern Queensland, Part 1. *Rec. Austr. Mus.*, xi., 3, 1916, pp. 33-64, pls. xiv.-xvi.
- 66.—Occasional Notes. Ova Sacs of *Arachnura trilobata*, Urq. *Tom. cit.*, pp. 65-66, pl. xvii.
- 67.—Arachnida from Northern Queensland. Part 2. *Rec. Austr. Mus.*, xi., 5, 1916, pp. 79-117, pls. xxi.-xxiii.
- 68.—Arachnida from Macquarie Island. *Austr. Antarct. Exped.*, 1911-1914. *Sci. Repts. Ser. C.-Zool. and Bot.*, v., 1, 1917, pp. 5-13, fourteen text-figures.
- 69.—Results of the South Australian Museum Expedition to Strzelecki and Cooper Creeks. September and October 1916. (n) Araneidæ. *Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Australia*, xli., 1917, pp. 482-489, pl. xxxii.
- 70.—Insecta and Arachnida from North-West Australia. *Trans. Roy. Geo. Soc. Austr. (S.A. Branch)*. 1916-1917, pp. 284-288. (In collaboration with A. Musgrave).
- 71.—Australian Trap-door Spiders. *Rec. Austr. Mus.*, xii., 7, 1918, pp. 81-169, pls. xii.-xxiv. (In collaboration with Dr. R. H. Pülleine).

POSTHUMOUS.

- 72.—Arachnida from Lord Howe and Norfolk Islands. *Rec. S. Austr. Mus.*, i., 3, 1920, pp. 229-272, pls. xxviii.-xxxii.
- 73.—Trap-door Spiders of the "Chevert" Expedition. *Rec. Austr. Mus.*, xiii., 3, 1920, pp. 77-85, eight text-figures.

ANTHONY MUSGRAVE,

Entomologist,

Australian Museum.

[In addition to these papers the late Mr. Rainbow left a completed manuscript entitled "Spiders from Molangul, S.E. Queensland" together with sketched figures. If suitable arrangements for the completion of these sketches can be made it is hoped to publish this paper. Editor, *Australian Museum Records*.]