

## INQUIRIES FROM CORRESPONDENTS.

The Editor begs to submit to the readers of the Tasmanian Journal the following inquiries which have been addressed to him:—

Can any of your readers furnish a detailed account of the destruction of the extensive forests about Lake Echo, Marlborough, &c. during the winter of 1837, and stated to be by the frost about the 1st and 2nd of July in that year?—Information also would be desirable relative to the immense number of kangaroos said to have been found dead after the snow melted away in the same localities.

A species of fly, which is a source of increasing torment to our horses during the summer months, has within the last few years become common, and latterly most abundant. It also infests houses, biting very smartly; being in this respect, as it is in general appearance, very different from our old house-fly. It is generally asserted and believed that it was *imported* from Port Phillip; and all grooms and coachmen unite in stating that until lately it was unknown. Can any of your entomological readers furnish information about this fly—whether they possess specimens in any old collection of our insects; and if not, when they first observed it, &c.?

*Solbya angustifolia*.—Has any botanist in the island collected the *Solbya angustifolia* (*Billardiera fusiformis*, Labil.)? It is a blue-flowered species of climber, and stated to be an inhabitant of Van Diemen's Land.

*Nettles*.—Will any person, possessing correct information relative to the apparent *spontaneous* growth of nettles in remote places, furnish particulars; as also, if possible, dried specimens of the plants, that it may be ascertained whether they are an indigenous or British species. The most interesting fact would be their growth in a stock-yard, made and used exclusively (say for one season only) for collecting bush cattle, which could not have had the seeds of an imported species attached to their hair?

*Marianthus cæruleo-punctatus*.—In the Annals and Magazine of Natural History for February 1841, where the first and second parts of a work called "Icones Plantarum Rariorum Horti Regii Botanici Berolinensis," are noticed, I perceive that the *Marianthus* above named is stated to be a new species from *Van Diemen's Land*. In the Botanical Magazine for September, 1841, t. 3893, the same species is figured, and is there stated to be from "The Darling range of mountains at the Swan River settlement." This latter will, I think, be found to be the correct one, as I have seen no such plant in this Colony. This I deem worthy of remark, as otherwise erroneous habitats being given to our Australian flora, tend to confuse vegetable geography.—*Botanicus*.

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