

VICTORIAN COLLECTORS IN THE KIMBERLEY

Licenses were issued last month to authorise two collectors from the National Museum of Victoria to collect fauna in the Kimberley Division. The recipients of the licenses were Mr. Charles Tanner, Honorary Associate in Herpetology, and Mr. A.J. Coventry, Professional Assistant. The Director of the National Museum, Mr. J. McNally, advised that Messrs Tanner and Coventry would be collecting in the Kimberleys for the primary purpose of obtaining specimens of reptiles. They would also collect birds and mammals if the opportunity occurred. The licenses were issued subject to the usual conditions, one of which protects all rare fauna, while others ensure that the material is made available to science, that full details of the collections are supplied to this Department, and so on.

NETTING RESTRICTIONS COME TO THE KIMBERLEYS

Under the provisions of a Proclamation issued last month, a five-year ban on the use of nets in the Fitzroy River within three miles of Langi Crossing was introduced.

This is the first restriction of its kind to apply in northern waters. It was imposed at the request of Derby anglers to prevent undue depletion of the most highly prized fish in the north, the barramundi, which migrates up rivers during seasonal flooding. The closure will be enforced by the Pearling Superintendent at Broome, Mr. R.J. Baird, who will rely to a large extent on local assistance in policing the measure.

FLORA PROTECTION

Under the terms of a Proclamation published in the Government Gazette of August 16, 1963, the protection afforded to native flora under the Native Flora Protection Act, 1935-1938 has been amended.

Henceforth, all wildflowers and native plants are protected:

- (a) in all Crown lands and State forests;
in all lands reserved for a public purpose under the provisions of the Land Act, 1933, or any other Act; and in every roadway within the South-West and Eucla Divisions.

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(b) In all flora and fauna reserves throughout the State.

The picking of wildflowers and native plants on private property may legally take place only with the authority of the landowner or occupier.