

The first record of *Danaus plexippus* L. from Australia J. Ent. Soc. Qd. 2:8.

*The first record of Danaus plexippus L. from Australia* is copyright by Elizabeth N. Marks 1963.

Permission has been granted by the Griffith University and the executors of the estate of Dr Elizabeth Nesta Marks for display of *The first record of Danaus plexippus L. from Australia* on the SERF website.

## ABSTRACT FROM PAST PROCEEDINGS

This abstract was prepared for the Minutes of the Meeting of the date given and the speaker mentioned is the authority for facts.

### THE FIRST RECORD OF DANAUS PLEXIPPUS L. FROM AUSTRALIA

July 19, 1962.—From DR. E. N. MARK'S address on "Silvester Diggle's Insects".

The butterfly commonly called in Australia the Wanderer and in North America the Monarch is today identified as *Danaus plexippus* L., but early Australian entomologists knew it as *Danais archippus* Fab.

Urquhart (1960), quoting information supplied by A. Musgrave on *D. plexippus* in Australia, says it "was first recorded from this continent by W. H. Miskin (1871)". Miskin's record was contained in a note dated "Brisbane, 21st February, 1871" and published in June 1871. This was written after the presence of this species had been recorded in the only publishing medium then available in Brisbane, the local press. The *Brisbane Courier*, Thursday, 16 February, 1871, p. 3 reports as follows: "The usual monthly meeting of the Queensland Philosophical Society was held on Thursday last . . . Mr. Diggles read a paper on the mode in which various insects had become acclimatised in different parts of the world . . . allusion was made to the various foreign plants which were overrunning the country in the neighbourhood of Brisbane, and he argued in favour of such insects being introduced which in their larva state feed upon such plants. He showed the practicability of doing so by the fact of a very beautiful butterfly (*Danais Archippus*) which feeds on a species of *Asclepiadia*, having become thoroughly acclimatised in this district, and stated his belief that it would soon be a common species". This report was repeated verbatim in *The Queenslander* of Feb. 18 and the *Brisbane Courier* of Feb. 21, 1871.

Silvester Diggles therefore appears to have been the first to record *D. plexippus* in Australia, and W. H. Miskin the first to make its presence known in the entomological literature.

#### REFERENCES

- MISKIN, W. H. (1871).—Occurrence of *Danais Archippus* in Queensland. *Ent. mon. Mag.* **8**: 17.  
URQUHART, F. A. (1960).—The Monarch Butterfly. Univ. Toronto Press. 361 pp.