



## Eric Mjöberg (1882-1938)

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Mjöberg was born in 1882 in Äs, Hall, Sweden. After graduating from high school in 1903 he was employed by the Swedish Museum of Natural History. He worked in the entomology department periodically over the summers between 1903 and 1912, whilst undertaking his university studies in Stockholm and at Lund University in Scania, where he received his PhD in entomology in 1910. Mjöberg then received a number of grants to achieve his ambition to explore and conduct scientific research in the tropics. He undertook two expeditions to Australia (1910-1911 and 1912-1913). During World War 1, Mjöberg worked at the museum analysing parts of the vast collections he brought home with him from Western Australia. The zoological material was to a large extent analysed by Swedish and foreign specialists and the results published over a number of years in a compilation titled: *Results of Dr E Mjöberg's Swedish scientific expeditions to Australia 1910-1913*. A great number of unknown animal species are described and in the naming of some, Mjöberg has been acknowledged (a sea snake, a frog and an ant carry the name *mjöbergii*). He received a Retzius medal from the Swedish Society for Anthropology and Geography in 1918 and a gold Linné medal from the Swedish Academy of Sciences in 1921 for his contributions to science. Mjöberg spent 1917 and 1918 in the USA on a popular lecturing tour. Ambitions to go to New Guinea in 1915 never eventuated but life in Sweden no longer satisfied him and he took up a position as director of a zoological research station in Deli on Sumatra. After working as Director at the Sarawak-museum in Borneo and a one-year long expedition to Mount Tibang, he returned to Sweden in 1926 with zoological, botanical and ethnographic collections. He published a further three popular travel accounts, including *Borneo, Land of the Head Hunters* (1927), which was translated into several languages and brought him international recognition. Between 1927 and 1929 Mjöberg undertook three journeys to India where he mainly collected ethnographic items that were later sold to museums and at auctions. After a visit to Java in 1928 his health started to deteriorate and by 1931 he was confined to bed. He died in 1938 in Stockholm after a long period of illness, probably with Parkinson's disease (Svenskt biografiskt lexicon, 1984: 538-41).

Ferrier, Å. 2006. Dr. Eric Mjöberg's 1913 Scientific Exploration of North Queensland's Rainforest Region. *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum, Cultural Heritage Series* 4(1): 1-2.