



The kloof of the upper Dwars River, above Banhoek. (Photo: N. W. Fuggle.)

## AN EXPLORATION GROUP REPORT

# STOCKING OF THE UPPER DWARS RIVER, BANHOEK

By BRIAN MANNING

**F**OLLOWING a report from Peter Arderne and Jonathan Cornell that there was promising water at the top of this tributary of the Berg River, it was decided that it should be stocked. Although there were trout lower down, it was suspected that their way upstream to the forestry lands was blocked by one or more barrier falls.

A party of six was duly arranged for Saturday, December 8, 1962, and the members attending were G. A. Saunders, G. H. Godley, D. Dickson, Neville Fuggle, Jonathan Cornell, and the writer. Six hundred rainbow fingerlings, in plastic bags with oxygen, were collected at Jonkershoek at 8 a.m. and taken by car to Dwarsriviershoek farm. Under a cloudless sky it was a cheerful party that set out, each carrying his pack of 100 fish.

The sun soon began to make things uncomfortable as we climbed the steep slope that lies to the east of the river, and we found the path that we were looking for not a minute too soon. This path follows the contours of the slope, and took us some 2 miles up into the valley. When it became evident that the kloof was closing in and the stream bed was becoming steeper, we dropped down to the river. Neville, Jonathan and I arrived ahead of the others and the results of a few minutes fishing were sufficient to show that we were still below the "barrier falls".

Mr. Godley was the first to release his fish as his plastic bag had been punctured on the journey. The rest were distributed higher up the river, the majority above the waterfalls. At this stage I would rather not put anything on record about the falls, but I think that only one constitutes a fish barrier.

Not a single fish out of the 600 was lost, though some of them were in their bags for five hours.

The river here is truly beautiful, with stony runs and pools up to seven feet deep. Insect life abounds, and I found the water to be somewhat acid, viz. pH. 6.0. The rock is all sandstone and pool formation is fairly mature.

After resting, the party tackled the journey back. This time, however, we followed

Geoff Godley carrying trout up the Dwars  
River kloof, December 1962.



*Photo: N. W. Fuggle.*

the river bed for some way, resembling here of that of the Kraalstroom, Du Toit's Kloof, but later walked along a rough herd track next to the river on the right bank. This took about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  hours, as against  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours for the journey up.

In my opinion this little kloof still needs some exploration work and in future may provide some good kloof fishing, while at the same time being relatively easily accessible and only 5 miles from Stellenbosch.