

## The Pool at Camp One

Afromomum flowers, soft mauve trumpets,  
produce scarlet fruit  
shaped like the penis of some gaudy primate,  
thrust upwards from the ground  
beside the brandy-colored pool.

Beneath the mirrored surface  
a freshwater crab, brown and small,  
sidesteps among the water weeds.

Above, damselflies like red neon strobes  
flash each other in gyrating flight  
while others, florescent blue or black  
perch on slender *Cyperus* stems.

Butterflies, large and fast and green or blue,  
of the *Papilio* family  
probe the mud,  
while the scarlet Nymphallid darts  
past a slow brown Satryid  
between the spiraling *Costus* leaves.

A shrub of the *Acanthus* tribe  
attracts me with glossy viridian leaves  
and orange tubular flowers  
shaped like upraised woodwinds.

A tiny tree frog, putty colored with rose feet,  
presses against a *Phylobotryum*.  
Beyond the bright pool, down the shadowed  
path,  
pale phallus-headed fungi  
with veiled necks  
smell like rotted flesh.

