# ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC

# NEWS BULLETIN

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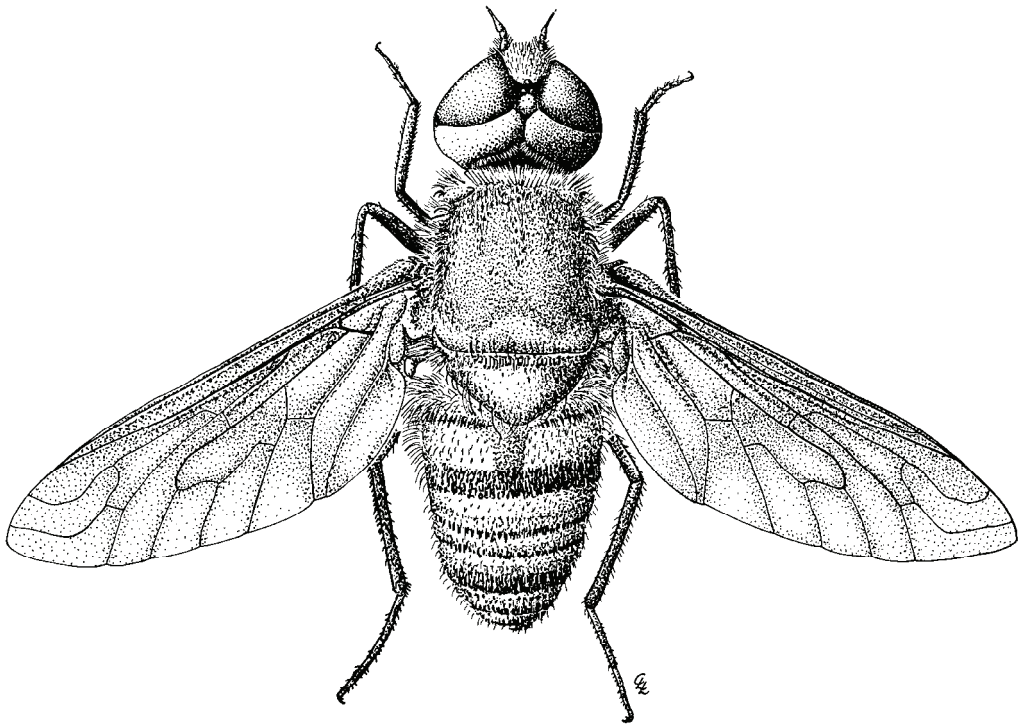

Volume 37, Issue 5, August 2009

# THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

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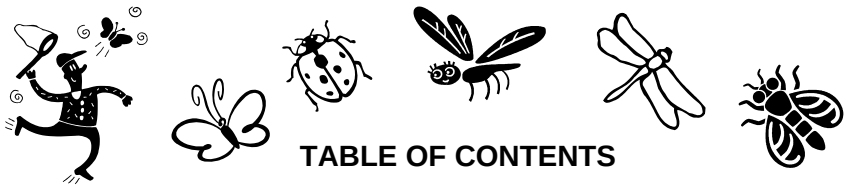
**Front cover illustration**: Habitus of *Atrichochira commoni* Lambkin & Yeates 2003 by Chris Lambkin. Invertebrate Systematics 17:p854.


**ISSN 1037-2989**



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The **ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND INC.**, since its inception in 1923, has striven to promote the development of pure and applied entomological research in Australia, particularly in Queensland. The Society promotes liaison among entomologists through regular meetings and the distribution of a *News Bulletin* to members. Meetings are announced in the *News Bulletin*, and are normally held on the second Monday of each month (March to June, August to December), or on Tuesday if Monday is a public holiday. Visitors and members are welcome. Membership information can be obtained from the Honorary Secretary, or other office bearers of the Society. Membership is open to anyone interested in Entomology.

Contributions to the *News Bulletin* such as items of news, trip reports, announcements, etc are welcome and should be sent to the News Bulletin Editor.

The Society publishes **THE AUSTRALIAN ENTOMOLOGIST**. This is a refereed, illustrated journal devoted to Entomology in the Australian region, including New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and the islands of the South Western Pacific. The journal is published in four parts annually.

**EMBLEM**: The Society's emblem, chosen in 1973 on the 50th anniversary of the Society, is the king stag beetle, *Phalacrognathus muelleri* (Macleay), family Lucanidae (Coleoptera). Its magnificent purple and green colouration makes it one of the most attractive beetle species in Australia. It is restricted to the rainforests of northern Queensland.

## Editorial

After a month off, we're back again with our second 'new look' Bulletin. As its still fresh and new, I'd like to hear what you think about the new format. All feedback is welcome.

The Perkins Memorial Lecture was a success despite our invited speaker, Gerry Cassis, almost not being able to make it due to being held up in the US longer than expected. Though poor old Mr Darwin, and his Little Gumbug, fell by the wayside, the afternoon was saved, with Gerry giving an informative lecture entitled 'Planetary Biodiversity Inventory and Documenting the Systematics of Australia's True Bugs'.

There has been a slight change to the diary dates (on the inside-back cover of the Bulletin) with the October and November speakers swapping places. Meron Zalucki will now speak at the October meeting, with Chris Burwell speaking in November.

Those of you whose articles did not make it into the June/July issue will be pleased to know I got them in this time. Thanks for your understanding.

Lastly, I'd like to thank the staff of Rocklea Printing for doing a great first job on the June/July issue.

**Justin Bartlett**
**News Bulletin Editor**

All contributions should be sent direct to:
justin.bartlett@deedi.qld.gov.au

## Minutes of General Meeting

Held in the Large Conference Room, CSIRO Entomology, Long Pocket Labs, 120 Meiers Road, Indooroopilly, on Monday, 10th August, 2009 at 5.00 pm.

**Chairman:** Christine Lambkin.

**Attendance:** Christine Lambkin, Richard Bull, Geoff Monteith, Mike Muller, Federica Turco, John Moss, Murdoch De Baar, Stephen Frances, Penny Mills, Lyn Cook, Don Sands, Gerry Cassis, Geoff Thompson, Chris Burwell, Bill Palmer, Noel Starick, Nancy Schellhorn, Meron Zalucki, Shaun Winterton, Tim Heard, Bradley Brown.

**Visitors:** Michael Hassle, Greg Harper, Karen Bell, James Hereward.

**Apologies**: Anna Marcora, Mark Schutze, Glynn Maynard, Morris McKee, Lynita Howie, Gio Fichera, Alisha Steward, Peter Gillespie, Desley Tree, Greg Anderson, Stacey McLean, Bernie Franzman, Gary Fitt, Andrew Ridkey, Justin Bartlett.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the last General Meeting were circulated in the News Bulletin Vol. 37, Issue 4 (June/July 2009).
*Moved the minutes be accepted as a true record:* Richard Bull.
*Seconded:* Noel Starick.

**Nominations for Membership:** The following nominations for Membership were received and approved by Council, and put before the meeting for election:
Mrs Bron Appleby of Trinity Park North Qld.
Mr Angus Emmott of Noonbah Station, Longreach.
Mr Peter Yeeles of Brisbane.

The Chairman called for members to vote for their election by a show of hands: Carried unanimously.

**General Business:** The Chairman announced the next Bug Catch was to be held on 12 September (date correction) at the Redlands Koala Reserve.
Geoff Monteith gave a brief presentation with slides to introduce Mr J.F. Perkins and the role he played in the training and education of student and post-graduate entomologists at University of Queensland.

## Main Business

### Perkins Memorial Lecture

### The Planetary Biodiversity Inventory and Documenting Australia's True Bugs (Heteroptera)

Gerry Cassis

Evolution & Ecology Research Centre
School of Biological, Earth, and Environmental Sciences (University of New South Wales)
gcassis@unsw.edu.au

Knowledge of the Earth's biota is still at an elementary stage, and it is more than likely that a majority of species are either undescribed or undiscovered. This lack of taxonomic resolution, commonly referred to as the **taxonomic impediment** (*sensu* Taylor 1983), is lamentable from both a scientific perspective and in the face of biodiversity loss. There is an ensuing urgency to document all living species, but it is apparent that 'business as usual' methods will not suffice, and a cultural shift is required to expedite the process. Solutions proffered revolve around the incorporation of information technology into taxonomy, as well as the development of globally-scoped research teams, akin to what occurs in astronomy.

It is an orthodoxy that much of what remains to be documented pertains to biotas of the tropics, but this notion can be safely extended to temperate regions of the Southern Hemisphere, including Australia, where collecting and taxonomic activities suffer in comparison to North America and Western Europe (Taylor 1983).

The insects are the major component of life on Earth, comprising more than half of the described biota, and in all likelihood this will also be true for the number of species that exist in nature. The great majority of insect species belong to the 'Big 5' orders, the holometabolous Coleoptera, Hymenoptera, Diptera and Lepidoptera, and the exopterygote Hemiptera. The Hemiptera are divided into four suborders (Sternorrhyncha, Auchenorrhyncha, Coleorrhyncha and **Heteroptera**), and of these the Heteroptera are the most diverse ecologically and morphologically, occupying most major ecosystems of the world. Commonly known as true bugs, heteropterans are the only insect group that occupy the open oceans (Gerridae: Halobatinae), are common ectoparasites of bats and birds (Cimicidae and Polyctenidae), and significantly exploit seed plants in all major biogeographic regions.

The Heteroptera are divided into seven infraorders (Enicocephalomorpha, Dipsocormorpha, Nepomorpha, Gerromorpha, Leptopodomorpha, Cimicomorpha and Pentatomomorpha) (Cassis and Gross 1995, 2002), with the vast majority of species (>80% of true bugs) belonging to the two latter infraorders, collectively known as the Geocorisae or land bugs. Both of these infraorders have carnivorous, herbivorous and omnivorous representatives, with predatory behaviour primitive in the Cimicomorpha, with the converse true for Pentatomomorpha, where carnivory is secondarily derived.

The Heteroptera of Australia is represented by all but a handful of the 85 families of true bugs, with a number of endemic family-groups (e.g., Aphylidae, Hyocephalidae), and species radiations of global significance (e.g., stinkbug genus *Poecilometis*). Cassis and Gross (1995, 2002) documented the Australian true bugs, recognising just over 2000 species. However, this is a gross underestimation of the true number of species, as demonstrated by the

steepness of the species description accumulation curve and new surveys (Cassis et al. 2007). It would not be surprising if the total true bug species richness approached 5000 species for Australia when documented comprehensively.

Much of this new diversity is attributable to the hyperdiverse (*sensu* Cassis et al. 2007: > 10,000 species) family Miridae which is likely to be less than 10% described for continental Australia. Much of this diversity is contained in the predominately phytophagous subfamilies, the Mirinae, Phylinae and Orthotylinae.

In 2002, the US National Science Foundation program, announced a new program, the **Planetary Biodiversity Inventory**, for undertaking taxonomic treatments of a major group of organisms. Funding was received for the Phylinae + Orthotylinae, and this project was administered by Dr Toby Schuh of the American Museum of Natural History and myself. At this point in time, seven people are working on the Australian representatives of these two subfamilies, as follows: Phylinae (Schuh, Dr Christiane Weirauch of the University of California, Riverside, PhD candidate Katrina Menard of Texas A&M University) and Orthotylinae (Cassis, Dr Nik Tatarnic, Dr Dimitri Ferero of UC Riverside, Dr Michael Wall of the San Diego Natural History Museum, and UNSW students Celia Symonds and Ratnawati Hazali). Coupled with these projects, an extensive field program was undertaken, with major collections made in Western Australia, South Australia, Queensland and the Northern Territory.

As a consequence of this project, a new model exists for enhancing our knowledge of the true bugs of Australia. The IT architecture consists of a systematic catalogue and a specimen datatase (http://research.amnh.org/pbi), which is now being used for other land bug projects, including studies on the Tingidae, Piesmatidae, Rhyparochromidae and Reduviidae. For the PBI project, species pages are being served through the website discover.org, as well as the PBI homepage.

The main project in my laboratory has focused on the orthotyline tribe Austromirini, which is comprised of nearly 40 genera and over 250 species, most of which are new to science. A phylogeny of the genera has resulted in the erection of two major clades; a non-ant mimetic clade and an ant-mimetic clade. A revision of one of non-ant mimetic groups, the *Lattinova* complex, has been recently published (Cassis 2008), in which the genera *Metopocoris* and *Lattinova* are known from plant species belonging to the sheoak genera *Allocasuarina* and *Casuarina*. This further demonstrates that the sheoaks are a major hub for land bug evolution in Australia, where in addition to mirids, tingids (e.g., *Epimixia*), rhyparochromids (*Larygnodus*) and scutellerids (*Austrotichus*) are also known (Cassis 2008). Other key PBI projects in my laboratory include Dr Nik Tatarnic's revision of the plant bug genus *Coridromius* and Celia Symond's revision of the native pine inhabiting species of the plant bug genus *Orthotylus*.

There are a number of models in advancing the documentation of the world's biota, particularly in places like Australia where the taxonomic impediment is significant. The PBI research infrastructure provides one way forward, and serves as a research framework for other taxa, including for many other families of true bugs that have received little taxonomic attention.

**References**

CASSIS, G. 2008. The *Lattinova* complex of austromirine plant bugs (Insecta: Heteroptera: Miridae: Orthotylinae). *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington* 110(4): 845-939.

CASSIS, G. and GROSS, G.F. 1995. *Zoological Catalogue of Australia. Volume 27.3A. Coleorrhyncha to Cimicomorpha.* CSIRO, Canberra.

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CASSIS, G., WALL, M.A. and SCHUH, R.T. 2007. Insect Biodiversity and Industrializing the Taxonomic Process: The Plant Bug Case Study (Insecta: Heteroptera: Miridae). In: *Taxonomy and Systematics of Species Rich Taxa: Towards the Tree of Life.* (Hodkinson T.R., Parnell J., Waldren S., eds), pp. 193-212. CRC, Boca Raton.

TAYLOR, R.W. 1983. Descriptive taxonomy: Past, present, and future. Pages 93-134 in: *Australian systematic entomology: A bicentenary perspective* (E. Highley, and R.W. Taylor, eds.). CSIRO, Canberra.

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**Vote of thanks** was given by Chris Burwell.

**Chairman's closing statement:**
The next meeting will be held at this venue on Monday, 14th September, 2009 at 12.00am with a talk by Trevor Lambkin, QPIF Yeerongpilly (ARI).

The meeting was closed at 6.15pm and was followed by a BBQ.

# Notice of Next Meeting

Monday 14th September, 2009, 12pm

✲✲✲✲✲

Guest speaker

## Trevor Lambkin

Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries

## "THE BUTTERFLIES OF TORRES STRAIT: Entomological Excitement Rediscovered"

✲✲✲✲✲

CSIRO Long Pocket Laboratories
Large Conference Room
120 Meiers Rd, Indooroopilly

## ALL WELCOME

(please sign in at reception before meeting)


## News from Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries Mareeba

Staff: **Rob Bauer, Stef De Faveri, Dr Harry Fay** and **Dr Ian Newton**

Our group has finally moved back into our labs at Peters Street, Mareeba, following extensive refurbishments, which were expected to take three months; meanwhile 14 months later we have finally moved back. We are all missing the beautiful surrounds at Southedge Research Station, our temporary base. We are still having a few teething problems with lack of hot water, electrical circuits tripping and nobody to teach us how to operate some of the new facilities.

**Dr Harry Fay** spent seven days in Indonesia on an ACIAR fruit fly area wide management project in Java. The tour of the Bintang brewery was a highlight; he claims he was checking out the yeast byproduct as a protein bait source.

**Rob Bauer** has been preparing the insect collection for its move to Indooroopilly later this year.

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## News from the USDA Australian Biological Control Laboratory

**Tony Wright** left CSIRO in early July. He had been an Entomology staff member since the early 70's and contributed greatly to biocontrol research, particularly on Water Hyacinth and USDA weeds research projects. The farewell party at Castellis Italian Restaurant was well attended by Tony's past and present colleagues. He passed on some insightful parting comments in his farewell speech, particularly how he was looking forward to the challenges of the next 60 years given the success of the first part of his life.

At the end of July, **Jeff Makinson** returned from a 2-week collection trip in Hong Kong where he conducted surveys of *Lygodium microphyllum*, *Rhodomyrtus tomentosa* and *Paederia foetida*. On *Rhodomyrtus*, a camouflaged Geometrid looper passed some makeshift hotel-room specificity testing and a Gelechiid adult was reared of the red that damages leaf tips and fruit. Samples of a pathogen galling the leaves and young stems of *Paederia* were preserved for US collaborators and more evidence was found of a moth boring into the young stems of this vine. Close to 100 *Lygodium* pyralid borers were hand carried into quarantine in Brisbane. Jeff is working with **Ryan Zonneveld** developing rearing techniques for this moth.

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## News from the Queensland Museum

**Geoff Thompson** has returned from his stint with Gerry Cassis at the Uni. of NSW with even more digital enhancement tricks. **Kat Wright**, who is on an industrial affiliates program as part of her undergraduate degree from Griffith Uni, has almost finished the beetle sorting and identification from the Capricornia Cays Pest Off Project. **Chris Burwell** and **Aki Nakamura** are recovering from IntECOL, by writing the Capricornia Cays ant and other invertebrate data in paper form. **Anna Marcora** quietly sorts and identifies Hymenoptera from Malaise traps in crops from the Darling Downs, with occasional input from **Chris Burwell**, and both hope the work is finished before Christmas. **Steve Johnson** has been busy databasing his butterfly collection now part of the Museum of Tropical Queensland, as he has already completed the reorganisation of the South Bank collection. **Chris Lambkin**, **Federica Turco** and **Geoff Monteith** are about to hit WA, hopefully with the onset of spring. **Susan Wright** has returned from leave, and we are all relieved, except Susan.

## PhD project: the terrestrial invertebrates of dry streams

Alisha Steward is a PhD student from Griffith University conducting research on dry-stream ecosystems. What is a dry-stream ecosystem, I hear you ask? A dry-stream ecosystem is the terrestrial ecosystem created in a riverine channel once surface water ceases to exist. One of Alisha's tasks involves sampling the terrestrial invertebrates that inhabit dry streams in south-east Queensland. Pit-fall traps are used to collect the invertebrates, which commonly consist of ants, springtails, spiders (Lycosidae), and beetles (Carabidae). Interestingly, freshwater crayfish have also been collected in these traps!

If you are interested in assisting Alisha with field work, please contact her for more information:

Alisha Steward
a.steward@griffith.edu.au
Ph. 0402 091 863.

## Beetles Bringing Home the Bacon

Geoff Monteith
Queensland Museum

Last year I wrote an article in the *News Bulletin* (Monteith 2008) about an enormous aggregation of beetles in the forest not far from the roadway through Forty Mile Scrub NP in North Queensland. They occupied an area of 5-6 metres diameter (25 cm deep in the middle) and comprised two species of scarabs, mostly the hybosorid, *Phaeochrous emarginatus*, with about 25% of the scarabaeine, *Coptodactyla brooksi*. This beetle mass had been known to be present at the spot for at least 5 years, being entirely dead and dry in the dry season and augmented by the arrival of thousands of live beetles when the smell of decay was renewed with the coming of the wet season each year. Both species of beetles are normally attracted to carrion and I speculated in the article that the origin of the mass may have been the carcass of a shot or road-killed beast (pig or cow) which attracted a large quantity of beetles whose subsequent decay drove a self-sustaining system.

Earlier this year the Queensland Museum was sent some photographs which shows that my speculation may be true, and they at least show that a large dead animal may attract a prodigious number of beetles. The event occurred on a grazing property about 60 km NE of Longreach in far inland Queensland, which is arid inland habitat. At about mid-morning on December 29, 2008 a feral pig was shot and left beside the road. Twelve hours later (9PM at night), when the people drove back along the road, they noticed the pig was covered with something. Stopping to look, they found it was a vast, seething mass of beetles and the sight was duly photographed (Fig 1). The beetles are concentrated at a few parts of the body towards the head end and presumably these focus on the parts of the body with bullet injury. Close examination showed that the lower jaw had already been completely stripped of skin and flesh down to the bare bone (Fig 2). This rapid removal of fresh tissue is even more impressive when one considers that the beetles are entirely nocturnal and thus must have been working for only in 2-3 hours since nightfall.

***Fig. 1.*** Massed hybosorid beetles on a feral pig near Longreach 12 hours after it had been shot.

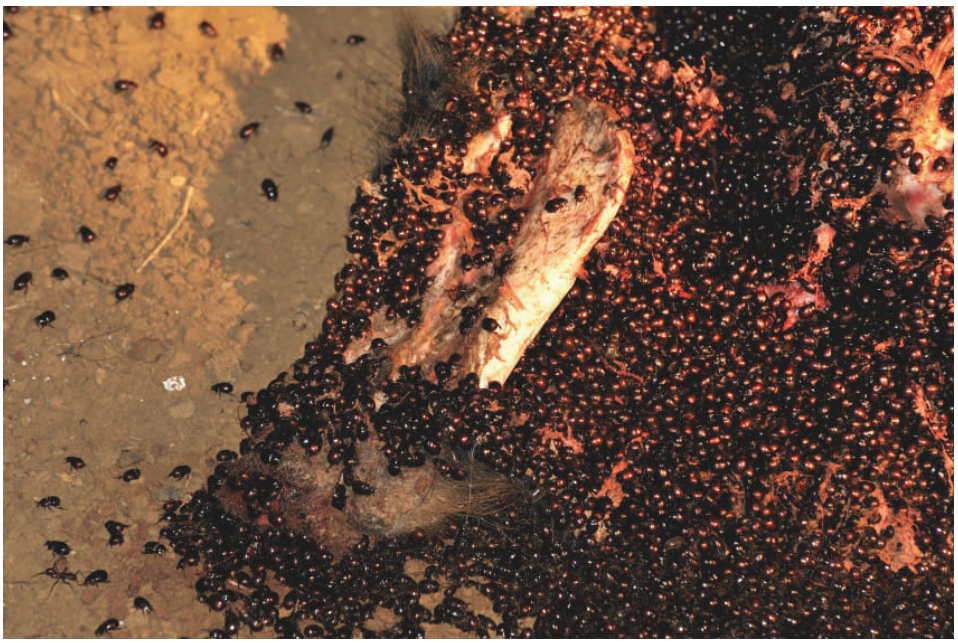

***Fig. 2.*** Detail of the head of the pig showing lower jaw already stripped of flesh.

It is clear that almost all the beetles are a species of Hybosoridae, and they may be the same genus, *Phaeochrous*, which was dominant at the Forty Mile Scrub site. The other group which was common at Forty Mile Scrub, *Coptodactyla*, does not occur in inland areas. Also visible among the horde of hybosorids in the present photographs are very occasional paler coloured specimens of the trogid genus, *Omorgus*. These are also carrion-feeders, though normally they arrive at the final, dried-out stages of decay.

The observer, when he next examined the carcass, eight days after the shooting, says that the whole animal was by then reduced to bare, dry bones in original position. There was no sign of other predators/scavengers having interfered with the carcass. No beetles were visible at that stage but there were many thousands of burrows into the ground. Hybosorids bury suitable material in chambers at the ends of burrows and lay eggs in it as food for their developing larvae. It is therefore probably reasonable to assume that in eight days the beetles had buried virtually the entirety of soft tissues from the pig, and this assumption would be supported by the quantity of beetles which were photographed on the first night beginning to "bring home the bacon" within hours of its death.

The moral of this story is that, if camping out in mid-summer around Longreach, you should probably keep the zipper of your sleeping bag pulled firmly up.

**Reference**

MONTEITH, G.B. 2008. More beetles than you can poke a stick at. *News Bulletin of the Entomological Society of Queensland* 36(4): 98-100.

# *ENTOMOLOGISTS IN ACTION*

In this edition …….

## Queensland Primary Industries and Fisheries Entomology Collection

**Dr Shaun L. Winterton**

Shaun completed an undergraduate degree in Zoology and Chemistry at the University of Southern Queensland in 1992. In 2000 he completed a PhD in insect systematics at the University of Queensland and moved to the United States the following week to undertake a postdoctoral fellowship at North Carolina State University on molecular systematics of flies and lacewings. Between 2004 and 2007 Shaun worked for the USDA, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) on pest diagnostics. In 2007 he moved back to Brisbane to serve in a joint appointment as curator of the University of Queensland and Queensland Primary Industries & Fisheries insect collections.

Shaun's main interests include: testing hypotheses of invertebrate evolution and biodiversity using estimates of phylogeny based on molecular and morphological data; and, the integration of bioinformatics, digital taxonomy, interactive keys and molecular diagnostic tools into collection based research. Much of Shaun's work has been focused on stiletto flies (Diptera: Therevidae) and lacewings (Neuroptera).

**Desley Tree** (as in forest….no-one can ever spell it!!)

Desley's role as 'Collection Manager' has her overseeing the general day to day running of the QPIF Entomology Collection. For the last 29 years she has worked for QPIF as a technician in various laboratories and reference collections (Entomology and Plant Pathology Herbarium), with the last 11 years in the Entomology Collection, firstly as a technician in the Papaya Fruit Fly eradication program, then as a database technician entering data for the Australian Plant Pest database project. For the last three years she has been studying thrips' taxonomy and biology after completing a diagnostic scholarship from DAFF. During this time she enrolled at UQ to gain some formal qualifications in entomology and continued to complete her Masters degree last month. In 2008, Desley also completed an aphid taxonomy course at ANIC with Dr Bob Foottit from Canada.

**Dr Nate Hardy**

Nate began his research appointment with the QPIF Entomology Collection in late 2008 after having recently completed a PhD at the University of California under Penny Gullan. Nate's area of interest encompasses the diversification, phylogeny, biogeography and bioinformatics of scale insects (Coccoidea), with current projects and collaborations involving Australian scale insect taxonomy and diagnostics, an online scale insect database, a review of Southern Hemisphere arthropod biogeography, and a survey of mealybug endosymbionts.

**Dr Dean Beasley**

Dean, who is actually a plant pathologist by trade, is the self-proclaimed 'odd one out' in the QPIF Entomology/Taxonomy group. He studied Applied Science at the University of Queensland, Gatton College, going on to complete his PhD on *Botrytis cinerea* epidemiology on Geraldton waxflower, and, since 2000, has worked at the QPIF Plant Pathology Herbarium. Dean is currently employed as part of the Bioresources


Left to right: Justin, Nate, Dean (kneeling), Shaun and Desley (pictured next to a, now incorrect', DPI&F' sign).

Queensland project, primarily to administer the integration of plant pathology and entomology specimen data into one collection collection management system. This project will establish a 'virtual collection' of biological specimens accessible via the intranet/ internet and improve data sharing with national databases such as the Australian Plant Pest Database (APPD) and the Atlas of Living Australia (ALA). He is also involved in a number of CRC for National Plant Biosecurity projects, including the Plant Biosecurity Toolbox, Biosecurity Bank and the Remote Microscope Diagnostic Network.

**Justin Bartlett**

Justin repaired watches for ten year before joining QPIF in late 2001, as a volunteer with an interest in insects, via the Work for the Dole scheme. After a few months training (i.e., collecting darkling beetles from chicken manure) Justin was hired by Trevor Lambkin (Darkling Beetle Management project leader) under two conditions: 1) that he obtain a tertiary education; 2) that he never complain about the chicken manure.

Under supervision of Margaret Schneider, and later, Shaun Winterton, Justin obtained a Graduate Certificate, then a Masters degree, in Entomology through the University of Queensland. In 2006, after having failed to comply with Trevor's second condition, Justin left the familiar poultry-related aromas of darkling beetle work for the fresh smell of naphthalene, with an appointment at the QPIF entomology collection, where he databases the collection, provides general support/curatorial assistance and performs the occasional beetle identification.

Justin has a general interest in the Coleoptera with a particular focus on the taxonomy and systematics of the family Cleridae. He is presently the editor of the Bulletin you are now reading.

# NOTICES

## CORRECTION: Bugcatch date

The date given for the Bug-Catch event at Brisbane Koala Bushlands in the last issue of the News Bulletin (volume 37, issue 4, page 76) is incorrect.

Please note that **this event will be held on Saturday 12th of September** (not Sunday 13th).

## ESQ Collecting Permits

**Reports due**

Firstly, it is a requirement of the permit that a report is sent by the Society to the EPA. This report is due at the end of October so it is now time to start gathering the information. I have had a few emails returned due to out-of-date addresses so if you have a new email address could you please let me know the new one.

The information the EPA requires is as follows: latitude and longitude or grid references, datum used, locality information, collector, date, method of collection, habitat, life stage, sex (if known), altitude, scientific name (common name if there is one) and number collected. In the case of butterflies I need to know if a specimen was taken or if the record is an observation only. They also ask for information on where the specimens are held. There is an excel file into which your data should be entered and you should all have a copy. If not, it is available on our website or contact me. There are also guidelines on the web which will help you fill in the compulsory fields (the ones in grey).

Please send your reports to me so I can collate the information and then send it on. Reports sent electronically would be very welcome as it saves my fingers but printed reports (especially in the case of nil reports) are fine. **Even if you haven't collected anything the EPA still requires that a report be lodged by every holder of the**

**permit.** If I don't hear anything to the contrary any report I receive may be used in the bulletin for a future update on the permits.

**Parks list amendment**
If there are any parks not on our permits that people need to access in the coming season, could members please email me with the name of any additional areas. I may put in an amendment if it is warrented. See full list of parks at http://www.esq.org.au/permit.html

**Financial status**
A reminder also that **members who hold permits must be financial** members of the society, so please check that you have paid up for 2009.

Susan Wright
Permit Information Officer

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## Request for photos of insects from Girraween National Park

Girraween is one of the most popular National Parks in Queensland and covers an extensive area of spectacular, high-altitude, granite country adjacent to the Qld/NSW border south of Stanthorpe. It is famous for its spring wildflowers and, among entomologists, for the diverse insects which attend the several *Leptospermum* flowerings which occur during the spring/summer months. Vanessa and Chris Ryan are building a website on all aspects of Girraween (track maps, fauna, flora, geology, history, etc) which can be viewed at http://www.rymich.com/girraween/ . The website project is a non-profit, hobby activity and is receiving some help from the local National Parks staff. Vanessa and Chris wish to expand the section on insects and spiders and have approached the Society to ask if members might have species lists, photos or information on Girraween insects that they would be prepared to make available to them.

Copyright of any photos used will be fully credited to the owner. If you wish to help then please contact Vanessa and Chris directly on wyvern@bigpond.net.au .

**The Entomological Society of Queensland &**
**Queensland Environmental Protection Agency**
**invite you to their biannual**

# BUG-CATCH

**When: Saturday 12 September**
**Where: BRISBANE KOALA BUSHLANDS**

**Meeting at the Alperton Road Visitor Centre at 10am**

*Come for an enjoyable day of collecting -*
*stay into the evening for some light trapping*

**Check the June/July ESQ News Bulletin (vol. 37, issue 4)**
**for details or contact the Bug-Catch coordinator**
**on** 3840 7699 **or at** christine.lambkin@qm.qld.gov.au

## New ESQ membership invoices and receipts

Dear member,

From now on any invoice or payment form you receive from ESQ will, at the bottom of the page, have a tear-off receipt for your records. Please be sure to tear this off and retain it before sending back the completed form with your payment. I have confirmed with the taxation office that this method of receipting is legitimate.

The preparation of receipts is a very time consuming part of the treasurer's role. The change to the receipting method has been implemented in order to streamline the running of the Society's finances by saving the ESQ a little money, and by reducing the time spent by volunteer council members on such operational tasks.

Desley Tree
Honorary Treasurer

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## Revised ICON Case for Importation of Dead/Preserved Invertebrates

The Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) has recently reviewed the conditions for importing dead and/or preserved/fixed invertebrate specimens. The review was in response to a recent increase in the number of preserved insect consignments being held on arrival for not complying with import conditions (mainly not preserved in exactly 70% ethanol or with preservative drained off).

The review was initiated to broaden the scope of current **import conditions** from insects to cover all invertebrates and allow some flexibility while still targeting the quarantine risk. New import conditions have been developed and can be found on the ICON database on the AQIS website (www.aqis.gov.au/icon) by searching for "Invertebrates".

Key points to note from the new conditions include:

- The permitted ethanol preservation concentration has been changed from 70% to a range of 60-100%;
- Specimens preserved in ethanol are permitted to be drained off prior to export to comply with transport of dangerous goods requirements;
- Bees of the genus *Apis* are excluded from the new conditions and still require 70% as per the "Bees – Dead and/or Preserved" ICON case;
- Slide mounted specimens are not included in the new conditions. Please refer to the existing "Microscope slides" ICON case for import conditions;
- Invertebrate specimens that are dead (dry) are permitted without an Import Permit subject to the new import conditions on ICON. Specific conditions exist for specimens accompanied with suitable supplier/packers declarations, specimens exported from or imported to recognised Scientific Institutions and for specimens that are professionally prepared, mounted/pinned and labelled;
- Note: A recognised Scientific Institution is a scientific institute registered with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) of wild Fauna and Flora. A list of these institutions can be found at www.cites.org/common/reg/e_si.html. It is recommended that scientific institutions check to confirm either they are registered with CITES or that their suppliers are registered;
- Invertebrate specimens that fail to meet the new conditions will be subject to a quarantine approved treatment prior to release; and
- A valid Import Permit is still required for the importation of live organisms and knowingly infected organisms.

## Request for clerid beetle specimens

I am currently in the midst of preparing taxonomic revisions of the clerid genus *Orthrius* Gorham, and of the Australian clerid genera. As many species/genera are poorly represented in institutional collections, I wish to call upon readers who may have Australian clerid beetles in their collections for assistance. The images to the right show two beetles from central eastern NSW presently known as *Teneropsis australicus* Lea and *Cregya kioloa* Kolibáč (both between 4.5-5mm long) and, at the bottom of the page, several species of *Orthrius* (6-13mm long), a genus found Australia-wide. A second Australian species of *Teneropsis* is known from Kuranda, north Qld.

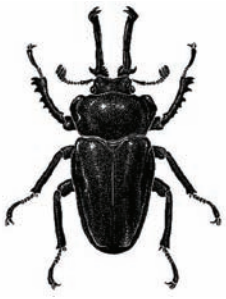
I would be grateful to hear from you if you recognise any of these beetles and/or have specimens that you are willing to lend. All borrowed material will be returned to the lender with determination labels once the work is complete (within 6-12 months), however, holotypes of any new taxa based on borrowed material will need to be lodged with a registered institutional collection.

Sincerely,
Justin Bartlett

QPIF Entomology Collection
80 Meiers Road, Indooroopilly, Qld 4068
07 38969419
justin.bartlett@deedi.qld.gov.au

**Top right:** *Teneropsis australicus* Lea; **middle right:** *Cregya kioloa* Kolibáč; **bottom:** several species of *Orthrius* Gorham.

# Nomination for membership of the Entomological Society of Queensland



Title____ Initials_____Preferred name _____

Surname_____

Address_____

_____

_____ Postcode _____

email_____@_____

Nominated by_____

Seconded by_____

☐My cheque/money order is enclosed

☐Please charge my credit card
☐ Bankcard ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Name on card_____

Expiry date___/___signature_____

☐ I would like a receipt

☐ general membership $30.00
☐ joint membership $36.00 ☐ student membership $18.00

I would like to receive the bulletin by
☐ normal mail (Australia Post) ☐ e-mail as a PDF file

Return to
Honorary Secretary,
Entomological Society of Queensland
P.O. Box 537
Indooroopilly 4068
Queensland

## DIARY DATES 2009

*Meetings held 2nd Monday of the month*
*(or Tuesday if Monday is a public holiday)*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| MAR—Monday 9th | Dr Mike Furlong (UQ) | AGM & Presidential Address |
| APR—Tuesday 14th | Nate Hardy (QPIF) | Mealybug Classification |
| MAY—Monday 11th | Mary Whitehouse (CSIRO Narrabri) | From Lynx Spider to Cotton |
| JUN—Tuesday 9th | Student Award and Notes & Exhibits | Notes and Exhibits session |
| AUG—Monday 10th | Perkins Memorial Lecture: Professor Gerry Cassis (UNSW) and BBQ | Planetary Biodiversity Inventory and Systematics of Australia's True Bugs |
| SEP—Monday 14th | Trevor Lambkin (QPIF) | The Butterflies of Torres Strait |
| OCT—Monday 12th | Myron Zalucki (UQ) | |
| NOV—Monday 9th | Chris Burwell (QM) | |
| DEC—Monday 14th | Notes & Exhibits and BBQ | |

**SOCIETY SUBSCRIPTION RATES**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **GENERAL**: | Person who has full membership privileges | **$30pa** |
| **JOINT**: | Residents in the same household who share a copy of the *News Bulletin*, but each otherwise have full membership privileges. | **$36pa** |
| **STUDENT**: | Students and others at the discretion of the Society Council | **$18pa** |

Student membership conveys full membership privileges at a reduced rate.

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**THE *AUSTRALIAN ENTOMOLOGIST* SUBCRIPTION RATES**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
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| | Institutions | **A$30pa** |
| **ELSEWHERE:** | Individuals | **A$35pa** |
| | Institutions | **A$40pa** |

Subscriptions should be sent to the Business Manager,
*The Australian Entomologist* PO Box 537, Indooroopilly QLD 4068.

# THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND

## NEXT MEETING

**12:00pm ~ Monday 14th September**
Large Conference Room, CSIRO Long Pocket laboratories
120 Meiers Road Indooroopilly

The main business will be an address by
**Trevor Lambkin (QPIF)**
entitled:

**'The Butterflies of Torres Strait:**
**Entomological Excitement Rediscovered'**

**VISITORS WELCOME**
(please sign in at reception before meeting)

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## Next News Bulletin

Volume 37, Issue 6, September 2009
due early October

**CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME**

Send your news/stories/notices to the editor
( justin.bartlett@deedi.qld.gov.au )
by Tuesday 22nd September