

# Ankida BugCatch Report

-- Kathy Ebert  
University of Queensland

View from the top of Peregrine Falls. Photo: S. Close

The Ankida Bugcatch (18-20 Nov) was a very successful event. Rains earlier in the week followed by warm, sunny weather helped bring out a variety of insects. Our Australian Rainforest Conservation Society hosts, Aila Keto and Keith Scott had the house area and lawns beautifully set up with gazebos and trestle tables for outdoor work spaces and camping. Over 35 people attended the 3 day event including families, students, artists and experienced entomologists, and all shared a common enthusiasm for insects (Fig.1)!

During the day, students were spotted throughout the property with their collecting nets and jars, collecting a wide variety of specimens for the UQ insect taxonomy course which runs over the summer semester and is coordinated by Lyn Cook. Lyn was also there collecting scale insects with visiting scientist, Chamaiporn Buamas from the Thailand Department of Agriculture.



**Fig. 1. Front row kneeling L to R:** Susan Wright, Olivia Wright, Darcey Brown, Matilda Brown, Kathy Ebert, Shannon Close, Chamaiporn Buamas, Jeff Wright. **Back row standing L to R:** Nadine Baldwin, Lui Lawrence-Rangger, Aila Keto, Susan Cully, Michael Cully, Lachlan Jones, Mandy Brown, Bradley Brown (behind), Geoff Monteith, Ben Kurzman, Claudia Schipp, Penny Mills, Wes Jenkinson, Noel Starick, Dylan Corner, Kempsey Ledger, Ben Archer (behind), Lyn Cook, Andrew Maynard, Christine Lambkin. Photo: K. Scott.



Malaise traps were set up around the property and although they are not sorted yet, they will likely include a variety of Tabanidae that Christine Lambkin was hand collecting. Christine and Susan Wright also put out multiple coloured pan traps to collect a variety of flies and hymenopterans. Robber flies (Asilidae) were also very abundant.

Lindsay Popple spent a day recording the various cicada in the trees (Fig. 2), while Wes Jenkinson surveyed butterflies. Chris Burwell and wife, Claud, spent time along the creeks documenting and photographing dragonflies and damselflies. One very interesting observation was a Terrestrial Evening Darner (*Antipodophlebia asthenes*) ovipositing in leaf litter near Waterfall Creek, but well away from the water. This is a relatively uncommon species with nymphal stages that are semi-terrestrial. One of the largest dragonflies in southeast Queensland, the Southern Giant Darner (*Austrophlebia costalis*) (Fig. 4), was also spotted along the creek. Whitewater Rockmasters (*Diphebia lestoides*) were commonly spotted along the creek, with males often displaying to each other.



Fig. 2. Lindsay Popple recording cicadas in the trees around the Ankida house. Photo: K. Ebert



Fig. 3. Banded-legged stick insect (*Candovia annulata*) Photo: N. Starick.



Fig. 4. Southern Giant Darner (*Austrophlebia costalis*) female from Waterfall Creek. Photo: C. Burwell



The dung beetle collectors, led by Geoff Monteith and Kathy Ebert, were also busy setting out and collecting up overnight baited pitfall traps at Ankida and throughout the Springbrook area (Fig. 5). A group of local residents from the local Springbrook area came to Ankida on Saturday afternoon for a dung beetle trapping demonstration and to receive their dung beetle trapping kits. They all returned on Sunday afternoon with their “catch”. Several interesting dung beetles were found including *Onthophagus macrocephalus* with a long flattened horn coming off the back of its head.

We ran 5 light traps throughout the area and moth specialists, Peter Hendry, Rob Lachlan, and Wes Jenkinson collected a variety of moths over 2-3 nights. While it was a bit cool for moths, an interesting variety was still observed. Some of the larger moths seen included *Bracca matutinata*, *Donuca rubropicta* and *Ododiphtera astrophla* (Fig. 6).



Fig. 6. Moths at the light sheet. Above: *Bracca matutinata*  
Below: *Donuca rubropicta*. Photos: P. Hendry



Fig. 5. Shannon Close helped place baited pitfall traps to attract native dung beetles. Photo: N. Baldwin.



Fig. 7. UQ student, Dylan Corner found an unusual stick insect during a night walk. Photo: K. Ebert





Fig. 8. UQ student and ESQ member, Lui Lawrence-Rangger pins out some of the large moths he caught at the light trap. Photo: K. Ebert



Fig. 9. The youngest entomologists: Olivia, Darcey and Mathilda. Photo: B. Brown.



Fig. 10. The Wrights and the Browns enjoy picnic lunch at the top of the waterfall. Photo: K. Ebert



Fig. 11. Aila Keto photographs an interesting insect that Geoff Monteith has caught. Photo: K. Ebert



Fig. 12. UQ students, Will Arnold, Jane McKellar and Ben Kurzman enjoying insect collecting. Photo: K. Ebert





Fig. 13. **Left:** Black tiger tail (*Eucynthemis nigra*) male from Waterfall creek. Photo: C. Burwell. **Centre:** Kathy Ebert examines dung sample for day-time active dung beetles. Photo: S. Close. **Right:** Scolopendrid centipede guarding eggs. Photo: P. Green.

On Saturday evening, the group enjoyed a delicious barbecue dinner cooked up by Noel, Christine and Bradley with help from many others. Before we sat down to dinner, Geoff Monteith expressed the group's appreciation to the ARCS for inviting us to survey their property, after which Aila gave us a brief history of Ankida and the plans for the future.

Aila and Keith led the group on a walk to Peregrine Falls on Sunday morning. We were rewarded with a glimpse of a Peregrine falcon and stunning views to

the northwest over the Ankida property. There were also orchids in bloom and a creek full of aquatic insects.

All in all, the event was productive and enjoyed by all. Students and local people were able to learn from the more experienced entomologists and came away with increased enthusiasm and knowledge. Ankida was a beautiful location for learning and sharing! Thanks to all who helped make it a success!



Fig. 14. **Left:** Will Arnold examines dung beetles under the microscope. **Centre:** Gaia examines moths at the light sheet. **Right:** Wes Jenkinson watches for butterflies over the escarpment. Photos: K. Ebert & P. Green