



BugCatch Report

Mt Mee QNPWS

D'Aguilar National Park

Chris Lambkin (Queensland Museum) and Kathy Ebert (University of Queensland) organised the latest Queensland Entomological Society Bug Catch at the Mt Mee QNPWS grounds, D'Aguilar Range National Park. ESQ members Chris, Kathy, Noel Starick, Robert Whyte, Ryan Norris (student who travelled from Gladstone), Peter Hendry, Richard Zietek, Andy Wang, Fede Turco, Liam O'Reilly (another keen young student), Jim Pulsford, Susan Wright, Penny Mills, Stephen Cameron, Kathy Thomson, Li-Xin Eow and 14 visitors used many collecting methods, and light sheets were run from dusk. A crew from 360 Degree Films filmed collection methods, and interviewed ESQ members (especially Chris for fly taxonomy, and Noel for his contact with George Bournemissza and the CSIRO Dung beetle project) for a documentary on Australian flies that may appear on ABC in August.



Fig 1. The film crew used a drone to film collection methods. Photo Noel Starick.



Fig 2. Chris explaining the Malaise trap to the 360 Degree Film crew, UQ student Perry Bennion, and ESQ members Andy Wang and Peter Hendry. Photo Noel Starick.

An interesting moth..

While the moth fauna was not in large numbers, one was completely new to Peter Hendry, *Xylodryas leptoxantha* (Turner, 1919). Characterized by the semicircular incise of the termen of the forewing, *X. leptoxantha* is a member of the Geometridae in the subfamily Ennominae. In 1919, while pointing out some differences, Turner placed it under his new genus *Coelocrossa*. In 1922 Turner raised the genus *Xylodryas* making *Xylodryas leptoxantha* the type species. One moth that came in some numbers was the small Hepialid *Elhamma australasiae* (Walker, 1856), with both male and female present. Others included, *Nataxa flavescens* (Walker, [Nov.] 1855) Anthelidae, *Parotis* sp. Geometridae and *Epicoma melanospila* (Wallengren, 1860) Notodontidae.

--Peter Hendry



Fig 3. *Xylodryas leptoxantha*
Photo. Peter Hendry.



OTHER SPECIES OF INTEREST...

Robert Whyte and two friends were in pursuit of a few elusive spiders to collect and photograph for his book with fellow ESQ member Dr Greg Anderson – *A Field Guide to the Spiders of Australia* (due from CSIRO Publishing in 2015). They were particularly after *Arkys cornutus*, Horned Arkys (**Fig 5**), an ambush predator in the orb weaver Family Araneidae. Perry Bennion, one of the UQ students, found an adult female for them within half an hour. The film crew interviewed and filmed Robert and his spiders.

A beetle found by another of the UQ students, Alexandra Nance, turned out to be *Uloma* (Tenebrionidae) – and the mites that live on it were *Diplogyniella gayi*. The mite family is Diplogyniidae, a favourite of Owen Seeman's who has published a couple papers on ones that live on subsocial wood cockroaches.



Fig 4. Diplura.
Photo Kathy Ebert

Also triggering interest were one of Australia's giant Diplura (also found by Alexandra), probably a species of *Heterojapyx* (Japygidae) (**Fig 4**, right) that are known to grow up to 50 mm long.

Last, but not least, Penny found a giant scale insect (Monophlebeidae) (**Fig 7**) was discovered - a sight most Bug Catchers had not seen before.



Figs 5. *Arkys cornutus*, Araneidae Arkyinae. Tiny (body 1 mm long); **Fig.6.** a Theridiidae. Photos: Robert Whyte



Fig 7. A giant scale insect Monophlebeidae. Photo Kathy Ebert.



Fig 8. Fede at the light sheet, collecting beetles. Photo Kathy Ebert