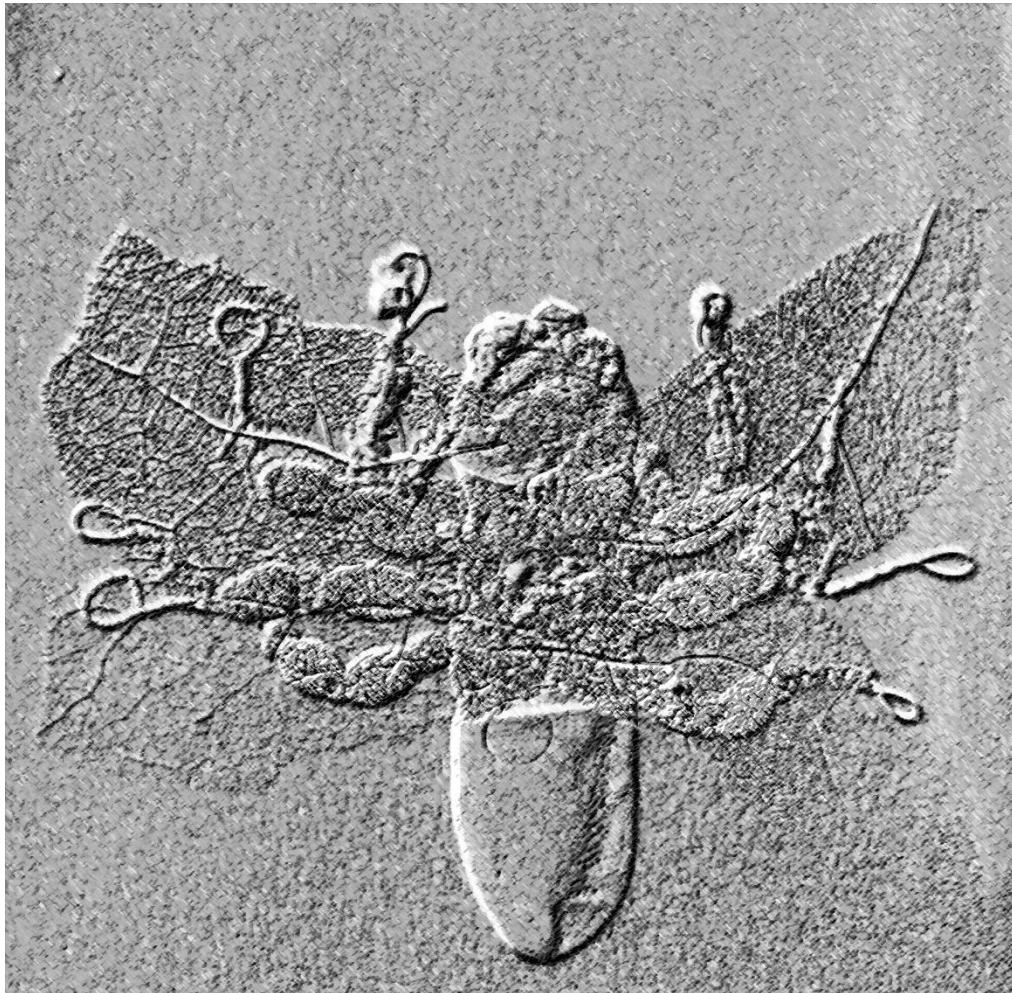


## Ancient Gondwanan fossil found 14 October 2005



*Burbidgus tomus*

Ancient fossil evidence of *Burbidgus tomus* (Calmoptera: Foliaidae) from 160 million year old rocks verifies the order Calmoptera as containing Gondwanan relics. Although rare, a specimen of *B. tomus* has been collected as recently as Feb 1986, in the threatened habitat of a CALM Science Division transportable insectary located near Perth Western Australia. The questions therefore arise: did CALM Science Division transportable insectaries exist in Gondwanaland? Or were there other environmental conditions which emulated this habitat during the Gondwanan period? In addition, *B. tomus* has been observed in jarrah forest (although not captured as a voucher specimen), notably Forestcheck sites. Observers report that during these sightings *B. tomus* is brandishing a large kite-like apparatus, seems to be responsible for vigorous shuddering of understorey vegetation and strange shouting noises which sound like "You beauty!" or "Oh — what — another weevil!" Whether the ancient Gondwanan forests also echoed to such territorial songs is uncertain. However, these displays are possibly defence strategies developed by the species to repel threatening processes; the species continued survival from Gondwanaland to the present day being a testament to their effectiveness.

J. Farr

## AGRODEA

bei Hirsutidae



Bei Hirsutidae



Bei Hirsutidae

## CALMOPTERA

bei Foliaidae



Bei Foliaidae



Bei Foliaidae



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