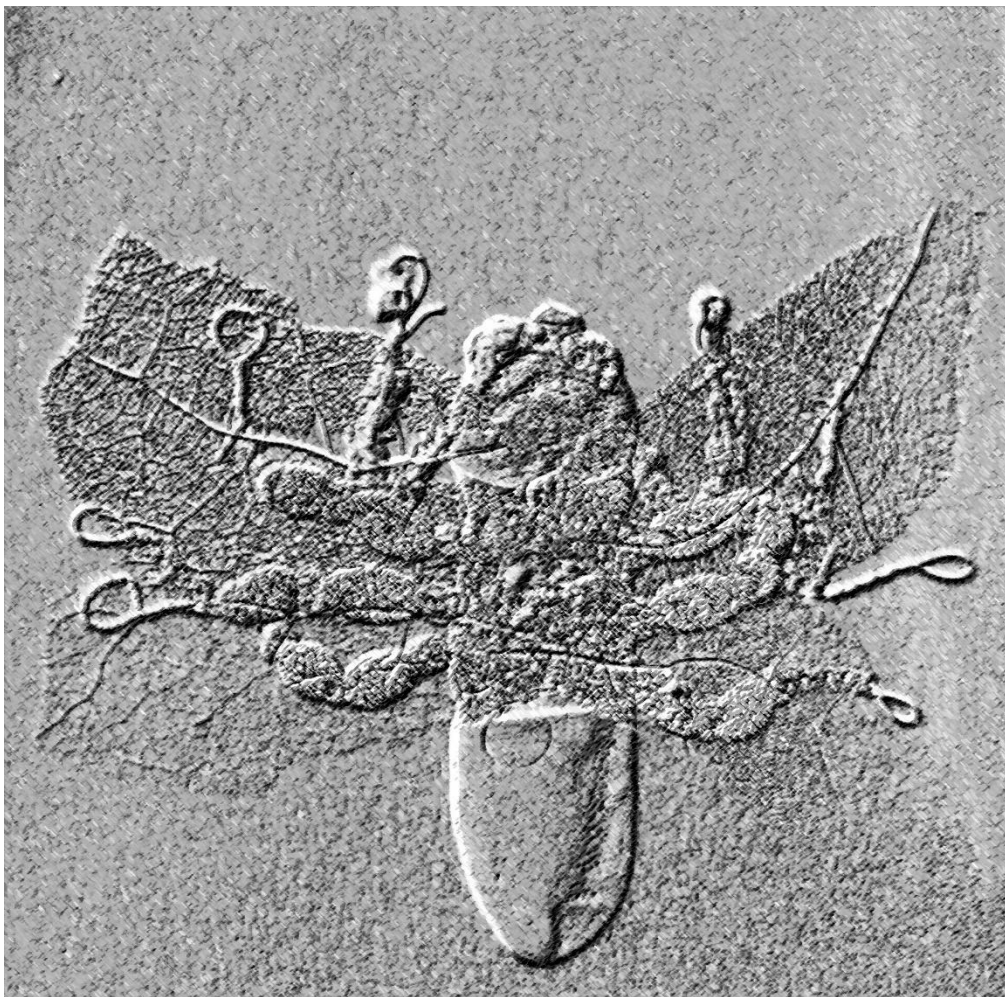


Ancient Gondwanan fossil found 14 October 2005



Burbidgus tomus

Ancient fossil evidence of *Burbidgus tomus* (Caloptera: Foliidae) from 160 million year old rocks verifies the order Caloptera 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

sub. Hirsutiidae



Neurospora vag. Hirsutiidae



Ceratomyces

CALMOPTERA

sub. Foliidae



Abolothus natus



Burtonella natus



Harmonia parda



Furia parda



Willea allana



Endocentrus natus













