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Invertebrate of the Month

February – March 2009



March Flies (Family Tabanidae)

Most abundant during Feb – April, there are a number of species that occupy south-west WA. More abundant during a year with high marri flowering, these flies like vertebrate blood and use nectar for general energy. Larvae develop in a range of conditions from swamps to damp soil and leaf litter. In Australia there is no known disease transmission to humans, but a filaroid nematode is transmitted to kangaroos. Some southern genera have Gondwanan affinities with New Zealand, South Africa and South America.

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