

The Biodiversity Information Landscape in Terrestrial Western Australia

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Abstract

Western Australia has the longest historical record of biodiversity exploration and biodiversity data in Australia, dating at least to Vlamingh's and Dampier's visits and biodiversity collecting in the Swan River and Shark Bay in the late 1600s. This talk will provide a historical overview of biodiversity data and informatics in the largest state in Australia, and discuss significant achievements and issues, with a particular focus on plant data. An enormous amount of biodiversity data has been collected in WA over 300 years, from the earliest specimens during the phase of European exploration, through active government and citizen science projects in the 20th Century, to significant industry investment particularly during the years of the resource boom, and continuing. While much has been achieved, many challenges remaining in making the best use of, and mobilising, these data in the service of research, development and conservation.

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