

# What's hot in biosystematics and taxonomy in Australasia, and why you need to know about it

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Biosystematics and taxonomy are utterly fundamental sciences. Very little of the work presented at this Science Conference would have been possible without the often painstaking work of generations of biosystematists and taxonomists, who have discovered, delimited, named and characterised every species and other taxon being discussed here. Biosystematists and taxonomists ask and answer Question Zero of biodiversity studies — “what’s

what?” Try to imagine a world where we have no idea what species are out there or how they differ from one another, and you can understand the fundamental nature of the discipline. This talk will focus on what’s hot in biosystematics and taxonomy, highlighting new and emerging methods, concepts and opportunities. From the collections of vouchered research specimens that underpin biosystematics and taxonomy (and that comprise one of the few tools in science that gets sharper with repeated use) to the novel information systems used to communicate biodiversity knowledge to a wide audience, Australian and New Zealand biosystematists and taxonomists have done, and continue to do, groundbreaking and world-leading work. So, if you see a biosystematist or taxonomist during the coffee break — give them a hug.

# Abstracts

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