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# Invertebrate of the Month

## May 2007



### ***Aenetus dulcis* female (Lepidoptera: Hepialidae)**

Commonly called the karri moth in southern Western Australia, *A. dulcis* belongs to a genus more generally known as the splendid ghost moths. They are typified by gorgeous large green females. The smaller males are often exquisite turquoise blue. But, the male of the species pictured above is white with green stripes, almost the white negative of the female. There are 24 named species of *Aenetus*, occupying Indonesia (1, found also in Qld & NG), New Guinea (6), New Zealand (2) New Caledonia (1) and Australia (16); 14 of which are exclusive to Australia. These large moths (wing spans of above pictured specimen 11 cm) are present as adults during autumn in the karri forest. Larvae of *A. dulcis* bore into trees and are known to bore into the stems of *Agonis flexuosa*. In Australia species of this genus prefer rainforest and moist eucalypt forest.