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# Invertebrate of the Month

## Dec 2009 – Jan 2010



### ***Stigmodera gratiosa***

The beetle family Buprestidae, otherwise known as Jewel beetles, contains many exquisite species. *Stigmodera gratiosa* (1.5 – 2.0 cm) can be found in south-western W.A. from North-West Cape to the southern edge of the Nullarbor Plain. Adults are nectar feeders and are often seen visiting various white flowers in spring and early summer. Buprestid larvae bore in the roots and stems of plants and some species can take up to 10 years to develop into adults. The bodies and legs of many species, including *S. gratiosa*, were once used in jewellery because their iridescent colours never fade. Today however, all Buprestids in Australia are protected and can only be collected on a special licence.