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# Invertebrate of the Month

## March 2011



### ***Uraba lugens* pt 3**

Using aerial surveys and satellite images we calculated nearly 200,000 ha of jarrah forest had experienced high levels of defoliation by *Uraba* over this summer. Populations in the forest canopy averaged 824 larvae per kg dry weight of foliage. The image above is an aerial view of part of the jarrah forest affected by *Uraba*. Brown patches are areas with high larval numbers; greener patches contain tree species not affected or jarrah with a lower larval population. At present the jarrah forest is reflushing with fresh new leaves whilst the larvae change to adult moths. We are currently investigating the use of female sex pheromones to detect high population areas. These pheromones were developed in New Zealand after they discovered *Uraba* had migrated across the Tasman.