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Invertebrate of the Month

April 2011



Synemon nupta

The genus *Synemon* is part of the moth family Castniidae and includes our rare and endangered graceful sun moth *Synemon gratiosa*. This group of moths can easily be mistaken for butterflies because they fly during the day, can rest on flowers with their wings held vertically above their body and have a club like structure at the end of their antenna. The species shown above (*S. nupta*) was spotted on the “Holland Track” between Hyden and Coolgardie in October 2010. The rare graceful sun moth however, has a flight period around March and a very restricted range on the Swan Coastal Plain which is dependant on the distribution of its preferred hosts.

More information on the graceful sun moth is available from our web site

<http://www.dec.wa.gov.au/content/view/6296/1/>