

LIBRARY

Department of Biodiversity,
Conservation and Attractions

This PDF has been created for digital preservation. It may be used for research but is not suitable for other purposes. It may be superseded by a more current version or just be out-of-date and have no relevance to current situations.

Invertebrate of the Month

August 2011



Ghost Moth: *Aenetus scriptus*

This gorgeous green moth is endemic to the south-west of Western Australia. The particular specimen pictured above was captured from jarrah forest near Walpole. It belongs to the moth family Hepialidae, commonly known as ghost moths. Hepialids are considered primitive moths characterized by very short antennae and lack of a functional proboscis. Although many species are large moths they are considered part of the Microlepidoptera due to their primitive morphology. The above specimen measures 42 mm but other species have a wingspan up to 250 mm. The larvae are tree borers.