

DATABASING SOUTH-WEST INSECTS



More than 15,000 insect specimens found in Western Australia's south-west forests are being databased for the first time. It will make this large resource of insect fauna accessible, not only to the scientific community, but also to the general public. The community will be able to access key information about the biodiversity of insect fauna in WA's jarrah, karri, wandoo and tingle forests, that will serve to stimulate and facilitate further studies of insects and the role they play in our forest ecosystems.

Well-known forest entomologist Stephen Curry began the department's forest insect collection in 1965, while he was working

with the Department of Agriculture. The collection is now managed by Department of Conservation and Land Management Senior Technical Officer Tom Burbidge, and is housed in special controlled temperature rooms at Kensington.

Tom said the collection contained a wide range of insects found in WA forests, such as spring beetles, parasitic wasps, various butterflies and moths, and timber borers.

"The majority of insects are stored as pinned specimens or in containers of preservative spirit," he said.

"There are also some wood specimens in the collection to show the

damage that some insects do to forests. Eventually, these will also be databased as part of the main forest insects collection."

The database is made possible by a \$30,000 grant from the Gordon Reid Foundation for Conservation, which is administered by the WA Lotteries Commission. The grant was awarded to the WA Insect Study Society to assist the department in the compilation of a database of its extensive insect collection, and to fund the employment of part-time worker, Meriel Falconer, to database the entire collection. (Meriel is also a dedicated part-time volunteer at the department's WA Herbarium.)

Department of Conservation and Land Management Senior Technical Officer Tom Burbidge inspects a selection of WA insects in the large collection that is being recorded on the department's electronic database.

Photo - Don Palmer, courtesy of The West Australian Newspapers Ltd



Winner of the 1998 Alex Harris Medal for excellence in science and environment reporting.

LANDSCOPE



VOLUME SEVENTEEN, NUMBER 2, SUMMER 2001-2002

020432

FEATURES

KARIJINI CALLING JUDYMAE NAPIER.....	10
OUR LARGEST ISLAND ANDREW BURBIDGE.....	16
THE ART OF SCIENCE VERNA COSTELLO AND GREG KEIGHERY.....	23
CAPE TO CAPE TRACK DEBORAH MICALLEF, JANE SCOTT AND NEIL TAYLOR.....	28
ANCIENT ANIMALS, ANCIENT NAMES SUE MCKENNA.....	35
LANDSCAPE OF THE HEART KEVIN KENNEALLY AND JEAN PATON.....	40
KARIJINI IN A DIFFERENT LIGHT CLIFF WINFIELD.....	48

REGULARS

BUSH TELEGRAPH	4
ENDANGERED GREENOUGH ALLUVIAL FLATS.....	47
URBAN ANTICS TO FEED OR NOT TO FEED.....	54

Executive Editor: Ron Kawallalak.
Editors: David Gough.
Story editors: Verna Costello, Sue McKenna, Carolyn Thomson-Dans.
Scientific/technical advice: Andrew Burbidge, Keith Morris, Paul Jones and staff of Science Division.
Design and production: Tiffany Aberin, Maria Duthie, Gooitzen van der Meer.

Illustration: Gooitzen van der Meer.
Marketing: Estelle de San Miguel ☎ (08) 9334 0296 Fax: (08) 9334 0498.
Subscription enquiries: ☎ (08) 9334 0481 or (08) 9334 0437.
 Colour Separation by Colourbox Digital.
 Printed in Western Australia by Lamb Print.

© ISSN 0815-4465. All material copyright. No part of the contents of the publication may be reproduced without the consent of the publishers.

Please do not send unsolicited material to LANDSCOPE, but feel free to telephone the editors.

Visit NatureBase at www.naturebase.net

Published by the Department of Conservation and Land Management, Dick Perry Avenue, Kensington, Western Australia.

DEPARTMENT OF
Conservation
 AND LAND MANAGEMENT
Conserving the nature of WA



Thirteen years in the making, the Cape to Cape Track offers a unique view of WA's most popular national park. See page 28.



Karijini's new visitor centre provides a cultural and environmental focus point for visitors. See 'Karijini Calling' on page 10.



Dirk Hartog Island is our largest island. It has a fascinating history and a valuable biodiversity. Find out why on page 17.



'Landscape at the Heart' is an account of the first LANDSCOPE Expedition to the Carnarvon Range at the edge of the Little Sandy Desert. See page 40.



Does the delicate work of Western Australia's botanical artists have a place in the high-tech world of science? See page 23.

COVER

Aboriginal names have always been part of Australia's history, and many of the well known names for Australian animals are in common use today. 'Ancient animals, ancient names' (page 35) makes a case for adopting more Aboriginal names for our native mammals. The brush-tailed phascogale, for example, was known to Nyoongar people as the 'wambenga'.

Cover illustration by Philippa Nikulinsky

