

To: David Gough
Corporate Relations

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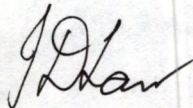
Witchety grub pictures

Enclosed are some photos as you requested. The closest to the true witchety are the ones of Cossid moths (as marked). The true witchety belongs to the genus Xyleutes and the Cossid moth pictures enclosed also belong to this genus although they are not the same species. The Xyleutes sp pictured bore into Karri and Jarrah etc and would be difficult food for aborigines on a normal every day basis (occasionally they may have eaten this insect if it was close to the underside of the bark where it could be heard chewing either by the aborigines themselves or by cockatoos which would betray its presence). Thus caption would have to read - "A species of wood moth similar to witchety grub"; or "Larvae of Xyleutes sp, a wood moth closely related to the witchety grub". The CSIRO book on Australian insects have done precisely the same thing, it seems generally accepted that any Xyleutes is a witchety, thus even captioning the photo - "Xyleutes sp, a species of witchety grub", would be acceptable.

For the Cerambycid photos (as marked), those marked as possibly Tryphocaria acanthocera are not a good representation of a typical "Bardi" which essentially has a conical shaped body, the head being wider than the tail. This insect is unlikely to have been used by the aborigines as it is difficult to extract from the tree. The slide marked "good example of Bardi" is essentially that, it is a true Bardi (please don't lose it as it's the only one I have).

All insects were extracted from Karri. Please return slides after use as I use them for lectures and demonstrations on wood boring insects.

Yours faithfully



J. Farr
Research Scientist

18 June, 1993

P.S. Photos taken by R. Voutier

cc:

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Richard Miller