

May  
2008

Issue  
No. 581

CIRCULAR OF THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES Inc

## Next Meeting of the Entomological Society of NSW Inc

**Where:** Meeting Room 2, Ermington Community Centre, River Road, Ermington  
**When:** 7.30 pm on Wednesday, 7 May 2008

**Speaker:** Robert McDougall, Macquarie University

### Alpine Ants

The ant fauna of Australia's small, but highly unique alpine environments have not been studied in detail. In 2007, Rob carried out a systematic study of the ant fauna along an altitudinal transect from 1200-2100m a.s.l. in Kosciuszko National Park, looking at the species present and their ecological role. He has modelled the likely effects of climate change on the distribution of three key ant species within this environment.

Ant abundance and diversity was generally low, as expected for a cold environment. Above the treeline just a single unnamed species of *Anonychomyrma* was found, a surprising result given the competitive nature of this genus. Its relatively advanced nest thermoregulation and plasticity of resource allocation to competitive behaviour may explain its success.



The Entomological Society of New South Wales Inc.

### First announcement: University Student presentation day, Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2008.

All currently enrolled Post-Graduate students conducting research into any aspect of entomology at a NSW university are invited and encouraged to participate in the 2008 Student presentation day conducted by the **Entomological Society of NSW Inc.** The venue for this year is the Orange campus of Charles Sturt University. The local host will be Professor Geoff Gurr, Professor of Applied Ecology.

Students will have 20 minutes to deliver an MSPowerPoint presentation describing their research. Up to an additional 10 minutes will be reserved for questions from the floor. An abstract of up to 250 words must be emailed to [garry.levot@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:garry.levot@dpi.nsw.gov.au) by no later than Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June for circulation to the judging panel. The judging panel will comprise members of the **Entomological Society of NSW Inc.** and other suitably qualified people.

The Society will present book prizes to the students deemed to have impressed the judging panel the most and a cash prize of \$200 to the best presentation. Each participant will be granted Honorary membership to the Society for 2008. All abstracts will be published in *Tarsus*, the newsletter of the Society and students will be encouraged to submit full manuscripts for consideration for publication in *General and Applied Entomology*.

A light lunch will be provided at noon prior to the beginning of the presentations at 1pm. We welcome all participants to join us for dinner at a local restaurant on Saturday night.

The Society reserves the right to cancel the event if there is insufficient interest in the event. Please use the email address above to register your initial interest.

Further details will be circulated to all respondents to this first announcement.

REPRODUCTION: Reproduction of original scientific matter contained in this Circular may be made only with the permission of the Council of the Entomological Society of New South Wales Inc or by authority of the author. Scientific names contained in this document are not intended for permanent scientific record and are not published for the purpose of nomenclature within the meaning of the International Code of Zoological Nomenclature Article 8(b).

NOTICE: Statements made in the Circular do not necessarily represent the views of the Entomological Society of New South Wales Inc. TARSUS is for educational purposes only. TARSUS is prepared by for ESNSW by Graeme Smith Ph: 02 9981 3749 Email: [le\\_gbsmith@optusnet.com.au](mailto:le_gbsmith@optusnet.com.au)

## Annual General Meeting

While the AGM was not well attended, we did manage to obtain a quorum and have elected Barbara May to the President's position. Robin Parsons has been elected Vice President. Ted Taylor, Gith Strid-Nwulaekwe, Mary-Ann Terras, Garry Levot and Graeme Smith all continue in their previous roles. We welcome Martin Harwood back onto the Council.



*Barbara May-- President*



*Robin Parsons- Vice President*



*Martin Horwood – back as Councillor*

## Launch of our new web site

The Council is grateful for the contribution of Max Hales, Lowan Turton and others, in setting up and maintaining our original web site. This site has served the Society well over the last few years but used a free server that did not allow us to include large files or photos.

The Society Council has now invested in a new web site on a new server, allowing a lot more functionality. The general public can now find out details of our meetings and download back copies of Tarsus and General & Applied Entomology papers as well as photographs. Hopefully this will be of more benefit to both members and the interested public.

[www.entsocnsw.org.au](http://www.entsocnsw.org.au)



Members should have received an email with your user name and a password (that you can change to suit yourself). Logging in as a member allows you to get the latest volume of General & Applied Entomology and to find out contact details of the Council etc.

Tarsus and older volumes of G&A Entomology are available to the public

For any problems (e.g. lost passwords), submission of photos for publication or suggestions for improvement get in contact with Graeme Smith. (0421 617 377)

## Honorary Secretary's Report for 2007

The 54th Secretary's Report of the Council of the Entomological Society of New South Wales.

### 1. The Council for 2007 was:

Honorary President	vacant
Honorary Vice President	Mrs Barbara May
Honorary Secretary	Dr Mary Ann Terras
Honorary Treasurer	Mr Ted Taylor
Honorary Business Manager	Ms Gith Strid-Nwulaekwe
Honorary Public Officer	Dr Mary Ann Terras
Honorary Editor	Dr Garry Levot
Honorary Circular Editor	Mr Graeme Smith
Councillors	Mr Mark Greco, Mr Robin Parsons

2. Membership as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007 was 86 financial and 14 unfinancial members. We said farewell to 10 lapsed and 1 resigned, and welcomed 1 new member.

3. Council Members: Council met formally at Ermington Community Centre on FIVE occasions between March 2007 and March 2008. Members attended: Levot 5, Taylor 4, Strid 4, May 5, Terras 5, Smith 5, Parsons 3, Greco 2. There was also a teleconference organized by Graeme Smith in December 2007, and Levot, Taylor, Strid-Nwulaekwe, May, Smith, Greco and Terras participated. This was a successful form of committee meeting as it was convenient for all and did not involve battling Sydney traffic, it is expected that Council will meet this way when needed during 2008.

4. Society Meetings: There were five general meetings between March 2007 and March 2008. Three meetings were at the Ermington Community Centre and two involved field visits to other locations in Sydney. We had a wide range of interesting speakers who attracted a large number of visitors. The society appreciates the contribution of time and effort made by our monthly speakers.

Date	Topic	Speaker
2 <sup>nd</sup> May, 2007	The Changing Face of Secondary Pests in Australian Cotton	Dr Grant Herron, NSW DPI
4 <sup>th</sup> July, 2007	A complex story of biological control	Dr Sarah Mansfield, University of Sydney
5 <sup>th</sup> September, 2007	Australian Whitefly Diversity - a synopsis of the Aleyrodidae in Australia	Mr Peter Gillespie, NSW DPI
7 <sup>th</sup> November, 2007	“Backyard to Bush” section of Taronga Park Zoo Invertebrate section – How it works This was a joint meeting/event with SFIS	Mr Warwick Angus, Taronga Park Zoo
6 <sup>th</sup> February 2008	The Mosquito Fauna of NSW: Past, Present and a Future with Climate Change, at Field Study Centre in Bicentennial Park	Dr Cameron E Webb, Department of Medical Entomology, ICPMR & University of Sydney, Westmead Hospital

5. The 54th AGM was held at the Ermington Community Centre on the 7th March 2007.

6. Volume 36 of General and Applied Entomology was published and distributed to all members mid year. Thank you to Garry Levot for his continued excellent work in publishing our Journal.

7. Circulars: 6 circulars (no's 575 - 580) were published between March 2007 and February 2008. The circular distribution continued to email only with hard copies being made available at meetings. Thank you to Graeme for undertaking this major means of communication within the Society.

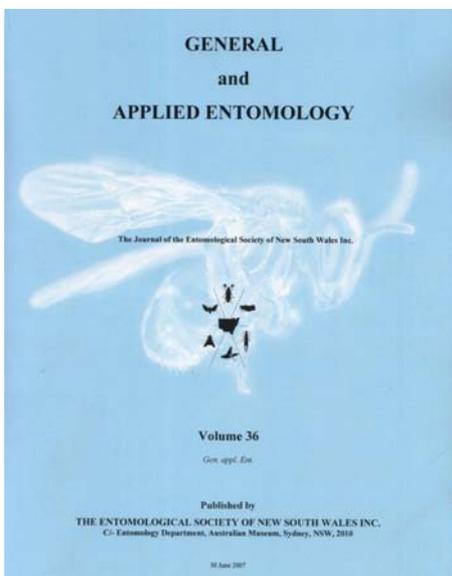
8. Society Emblem: The emblem for 2007 was CT scan of a stingless bee.

## 9. Other Activities:

- Lowan Turton has continued to run the Societies Web Page. Thank you to Lowan for keeping us part of the world wide web.
- Council undertook a revision the Society's web page. This will be launched at this the 55<sup>th</sup> AGM. Thank you to all involved especially to Graeme who understood the technical parameters involved, obtained quotes, and liaised with the programmer to produce the new version which will provide more space for Society activities.
- Gith Strid-Nwulaekwe co-ordinated our 13<sup>th</sup> year at the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower festival. Several Ent Soc NSW and SFIS members attended showing live and pinned specimens and talking to the public about the wonderful world of insects.
- Interaction with other Societies- contact has been maintained between Ent Soc NSW and SFIS by our joint activities including the BBQ at the zoo, displays at the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower festival and the exchange of newsletters.

10. Annual Dinner was held by popular demand at The Boatshed Cafe La Perouse. It was enjoyed by all that attended.

## Honorary Editor's Report for 2007



Volume 36 of *General and Applied Entomology* was published in mid-2007 in the regular light blue cover format. It contained fewer (five) papers than previous recent volumes, four book reviews and a review of a computer software Catalogue of the Ants of the World. Topics covered by the papers were a report on the life-histories of two *Thaumastocoris* spp., a paper on insecticide resistance in western flower thrips, a description of emergence parameters of Queensland fruit fly and a paper on the taxonomy of some cicadellid bugs. The cover featured a photograph of the Australian stingless bee *Trigona carbonaria* (Hymenoptera: Apidae), taken by Mark Greco.

The quality of production was excellent with several colour pages featuring. Our page charges to print in colour remain lower than those of comparable journals. The Editorial Board for 2007 comprised Dr. Murray Fletcher, Dr. Grant Herron, Dr. Debbie Rae, Associate Professor Robert Spooner-Hart and Dr. Christine Stone. The Editorial Board

for 2008 is not yet confirmed. The Society again used the services of DF Hill Pty. Ltd. for desktop publishing and the University of Western Sydney for printing. The journal is abstracted by **CAB International** and **Zoological Record** (formerly BIOSIS) so potentially it can be reached worldwide. Nevertheless, *General and Applied Entomology* has, at this time, again, not attracted a lot of interest from potential authors including Society members for the upcoming 2008 volume. This is unfortunate as the journal is of good quality, has now been published on time for the past seven years and has very economical page charges. In 2007, for the first time, authors were provided with a pdf of their paper *in lieu* of reprints. Access to Adobe™ PDF Writer software has reduced our costs for printing as well.

The cut-off for submission of manuscripts for Volume 37, which will be published in July 2008, is **31<sup>st</sup> March**. Currently there are only two manuscripts accepted for publication. Another will be accepted after revision. There will also be a book review included. There is usually a late 'run' of submissions in March but I encourage members to support their own journal and submit manuscripts - the earlier the better. All manuscripts submitted are sent to a technical referee and to one member of the Editorial Board. Turn around times for manuscripts depend on the co-operation of referees but we aim for around six weeks.

Dr. Garry LEVOT  
Honorary Editor  
5<sup>th</sup> March 2008

## Honorary Business Manager's Report for 2007

The Entomological Society of New South Wales Inc.

Publishing the Journal: **General and Applied Entomology**

(Hon) Business Manager's Periodic Report 06/11/07

Period: March - November 2007

*AGM 2008*

### I. Journal membership dispatch (includes Corporate and Company Associate)

<u>Destination</u>	<u>Number of members</u>	<u>Complimentary</u>	<u>Total</u>
Australia	108	2	110
New Zealand	1	-	1
Africa	1	-	1
Asia	-	-	-
Europe	3	-	3
USA	1	-	1
Total	114	2	116

### II. Journal Sales

<u>Direct customers</u>	<u>No. Vol 36 copies</u>	<u>No. back copies</u>	<u>Total</u>
Australia	4	2	6
New Zealand	-	-	-
Africa	-	-	-
Asia	-	-	-
Europe	2	3	5
USA	3	3	6
Total	9	8	17

<u>Agents</u>	<u>No. Vol 36 copies</u>	<u>No. back copies</u>	<u>Total</u>
DA	3	2	5
EBSCO	4	1	5
Globe	2	-	2
James Bennett	3	-	3
Karger Libri	1	2	3
Swets	6	1	7
Total	19	6	25

### Abstracting Vol 36

Zoological Record, Thomson Zoological Ltd (formerly BIOSIS), UK

CABI Publishing (CAB International), UK

Current Contents, USA-

DPIE Library Services, Queensland

Ulrich's Periodicals (no recent reply)

Legal Deposit to National Library Australia, Canberra

## Entomological interests during a family holiday in Egypt

Graeme Smith



*Silverfish were common under the stones at Giza*

the way of insects either. However, as silverfish are well adapted to dry conditions, I had bought a few specimen tubes with me just in case. It didn't take very long at all to find them under rocks, not far from the pyramids at Giza and Saqqara and they were plentiful. I was able to collect specimens of two species, an attractive brown species of *Sceletolepisma* with lighter fringes to the terga and a larger pale-coloured *Thermobia* species with a distinctive band of dark scales on the first urotergite. A probable third species



*Sceletolepisma sp.*

matter the silverfish were collecting, so maybe they aren't as common away from tourist areas.

Silverfish are not the most spectacular of insects I admit, but the families on our tour thoroughly enjoyed helping me look for them and were also amazed that anything could live under such desert harsh conditions.



Over Christmas-New Year I was lucky enough to be able to spend a couple of weeks with the family in Egypt. While the focus of the trip was to see the ancient wonders, it is hard for an entomologist not to see things from a slightly different perspective to most people. It appears too, that the ancient Egyptians had an eye for insects as hieroglyphs of scarabs, wasps, butterflies and scorpions were very common and in amazingly good conditions considering they were carved thousands of years ago.

The Nile valley is only green along its edges because of the irrigation. It almost never rains in the area. Once you step beyond the irrigated area there is virtually no green vegetation to be seen and not much in



*Hieroglyphs in Temple of Horus- Edfu*

(small, and silver grey) was far too fast for me. The only other living insect I found in this area was a solitary ant. While there was no vegetation on the surface, it was possible to find large aggregations of dried vegetable matter and insect cuticle under the stones. I don't really understand how this vegetation got there. It could be that the wind blown debris simply gets caught under the edges of the stones, but as most of the debris was well under the rock, I wonder whether the insects are foraging on the surface and dragging the bits they find back under the rock for later consumption. The weather at this time of the year is a pleasant 20°C during the day, and not the scorching temperatures experienced in summer. There are a lot of camel owners around the pyramids trying to sell rides to tourists. They bring in fodder for their camels and this may be the source of the dried vegetable



*Silverfish habitat at Saqqara- under stones in the desert*

## Show & Tell - March AGM



*Gith talking about her stick insect "give-aways" at the AGM while Tanya Tomlinson and Howard Greening "play" with them.*



*Mary Ann Terras holding a stick insect (Didymuria) which was found dead on the car bonnet at her house in Camden. The car is usually parked under a large Eucalypt tree in the front yard and she frequently observes stick insect frass on the car.*



*Garry, Howard, Martin and Ted chatting over supper*



*Eliza Bloomfield holding an egg from the spiny leaf stick insect (Extatosoma) which Howard Greening had given her as nymphs last year. Eliza had successfully reared them to adults on Eucalyptus leaves as she could not find any Melaleuca leaves of the same species as Howard was feeding them..*

Ted Taylor bought a sample of a Moreton Bay Fig leaf with Fig Psyllid (*Mycopsylla fici* Hemiptera: Psyllidae) on it. The feeding on the mid-vein of the leaf causes a latex flow that the immature stages make use of as a shelter - hence the alternative name of Chewing Gum Psyllid because the infested fallen leaves stick to footwear. In the photo you can see the latex blob with the cast skins of the final instars around it. There were several groups of eggs (30 to a 100 per group), laid by the winged adults, around the leaf margins but these are not visible in the photo

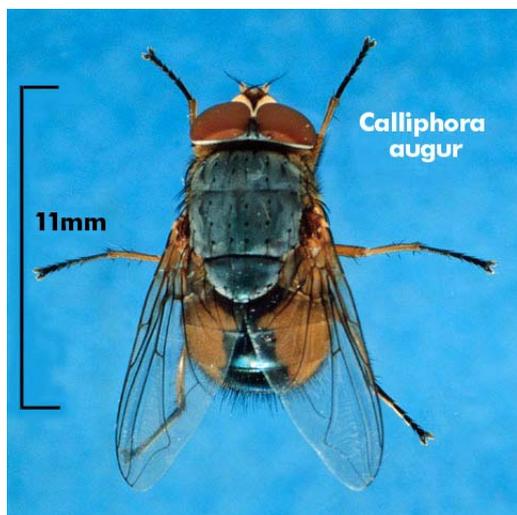


Ted also showed a close-up photograph of a paper wasp nest with the wasps on its surface (Hymenoptera: Vespidae *Polistes* sp.). The nest is on the fascia above his garage door. While they will sting if disturbed they are really beneficial insects with their main food source for the brood being almost exclusively leaf eating caterpillars.

## Insect of the Month

### Two brown blowflies – Garry Levot

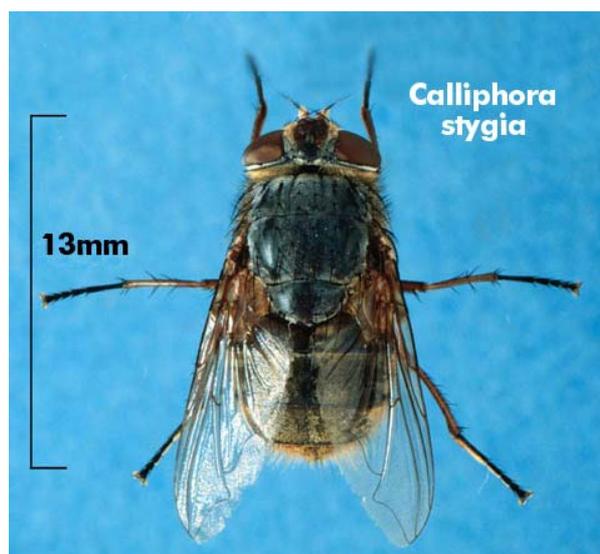
Photographs: Lowan Turton



Blowflies belong to the dipteran family Calliphoridae. Typically blowflies breed in decaying organic matter, particularly carrion. Two common eastern Australian species are shown below. They have very similar habits and everyone reading this article will have seen these species whether they realise it or not. *Calliphora augur*, the 'lesser brown' or 'blue-bodied' blowfly is extremely common during the warmer months of the year. It is closely related to *Calliphora dubia* that replaces it in the west of Australia but extends well into New South Wales. The species can be separated by the colour of the 'dusting' on the terminal segment (gold in *C. augur* and white in *C. dubia*). *C. augur* is a 'primary' blowfly species. This means that it is part of the first wave of insects to infest a carcass. It lays live larvae that are capable of feeding immediately. This gives it an advantage over the egg-laying species in the competition for food. As well as exploiting carrion, *C. augur* will deposit larvae into wounds or around weeping eyes of livestock and may be involved in sheep myiasis (flystrike).

*C. stygia* is another common eastern Australian primary blowfly. It is an egg-laying species with similar breeding habits to *C. augur* and many other blowfly species. To escape the fierce competition that occurs in carcasses, *C. stygia* has adapted to cooler conditions. In the cool, temperate regions of south-eastern Australia, *C. stygia* is likely to be the only blowfly species that is active during the cold winter months. Despite this *C. stygia* is most numerous in early spring and is one of the harbingers of the change of season. For the uninitiated, if you have had a large brown blowfly inside the house, banging its head against the window glass in futile attempt to get out, it was almost certainly *C. stygia*. In western Australia the very similar *C. albifrontalis* occupies the same niche as *C. stygia*.

The larvae of these common blowflies moult twice during the larval stage. Maximum size of *C. stygia* is about 19mm whereas *C. augur* is slightly smaller at around 17mm. *C. augur* can reach full size within 3-4 days of larval deposition. Commonly, both species are represented in the insect fauna of deceased persons (see Levot, GW (2003) Insect fauna used to estimate the post-mortem interval of deceased persons. *General and Applied Entomology* 32: 31-39.



## Bi-monthly Meetings

The Council will continue the operation of the Society while we try to fill the position of President. However, the Society will meet only **BI-MONTHLY** unless otherwise advertised (as is the case this month). General meetings with a speaker will generally be held only on the “odd numbered” months (March, May, July, September, November) while the Council will meet more frequently. Speakers tentatively scheduled for the coming general meetings are shown below.

This timing allows us to alternate meetings with the Society For Insect Studies (SFIS) which meets at the Australian Museum at 7.30 on the second Tuesday of the “even numbered” months.

### Future Events

Date	Speaker	Title
7 May, 2008 7.30 pm	Robert McDougall	Alpine Ants
21 June, 2008 12 midday start	Student Presentation Day	Orange Campus of Charles Sturt University
2 July, 2008 7.30 pm	Graeme Smith (Reckitt Benckiser)	Testing consumer pest control products
2008 TBD	TBD	

#### Venue:

Meeting Room 2  
Ermington Community Centre  
10 River Road Ermington

#### Meetings start at 7:30 p.m.

Talks run for around 45 minutes, with 10 minutes for questions, followed by a light supper. Guests are most welcome.

#### Getting there:

*By Car:* From Victoria Rd turn into Spurway St (head towards Parramatta River). Turn right into Jackson St then left into River Rd. If heading north on Silverwater Rd, turn right into Victoria Rd then proceed as above. If heading south on Silverwater Rd take the Parramatta off ramp, cross Victoria Rd and proceed into River Rd. If you miss the off ramp, turn left into South St, then left into River Rd.

*By Bus:* Routes 525, 523 and L20 depart from Argyle St near Westfield shopping centre near Parramatta station. Routes 523 and L20 depart from West Ryde station. Get off at the Ermington shops. River Rd passes between the supermarket and the hotel.

#### SOCIETY POSTAL ADDRESS

C/- ENTOMOLOGY DEPARTMENT  
THE AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM  
6 COLLEGE STREET  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

#### MEMBERSHIP FEES 2008

ORDINARY MEMBERS	\$50
COMPANY ASSOCIATES	\$60
STUDENT MEMBERS	\$25
CORPORATE MEMBERS	\$50

#### OFFICIALS

PRESIDENT	Mrs BARBARA MAY
VICE PRESIDENT	Mr ROBIN PARSONS
HON SECRETARY	Dr MARY ANN TERRAS
HON TREASURER	Mr TED E TAYLOR
HON EDITOR	Dr GARRY LEVOT
BUSINESS MANAGER	Ms GITH STRID-NWULAEKWE