

BOOK REVIEW

Pictorial Atlas of Australasian *Culicoides* wings (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae)

Alan L. Dyce, Glenn A. Bellis and Michael J. Muller (2007)

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The pest impacts of nuisance-biting mosquitoes in coastal NSW are well documented and there are many resources available to assist the study and management of these insects. However, biting midges are also responsible for serious nuisance-biting impacts and in some situations may pose an even greater pest risk than mosquitoes. Biting midge populations can be high and it is often reported that the irritation caused by these biting insects is often far worse than mosquitoes. As urban development in our coastal region increases, more people are potentially exposed to biting midges and the need for further research into the development of management strategies is required. However, to assist the development of new strategies, it is important to correctly identify locally important species and their ecology.

The **Pictorial Atlas of Australasian *Culicoides* Wings (Diptera: Ceratopogonidae)** by Dyce *et al.* presents a comprehensive collection of illustrations of the wing patterns of described and undescribed Australasian species of *Culicoides* that is sure to provide an important resource for entomologists working in the field. This 88 page, spiral bound guide provides illustrations for 292 species including information on species distribution. An excellent summary table containing numerical data for wing length, costal ratio, antennal ratio, antennal sensillar pattern, palpal ratio and proboscis/head ratio is also provided for the described species. Although no specific detail on the biology or ecology of individual species is provided, an extensive list of references will help those in search of more information.

Dr. Cameron E Webb
Clinical Lecturer and Hospital Scientist
Department of Medical Entomology
ICPMR and The University of Sydney
Westmead Hospital

