



March
2011

Issue
No. 595

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, 2nd March 2011

AGM

Review of 2010

Constitutional amendments

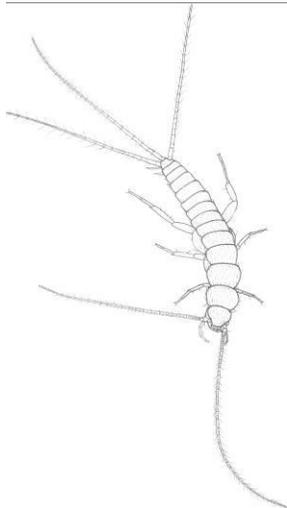
Election of officers

Show & Tell

Coffee and biscuits

There is no speaker scheduled for this meeting but we need your attendance to approve the proposed changes to the constitution.

Several Council members are not standing for re-election so we really do need volunteers to replace these positions. We won't pressure anybody into taking a position they don't want. What the Society needs at the moment is an injection of enthusiasm not reluctant (but still appreciated) draftees.

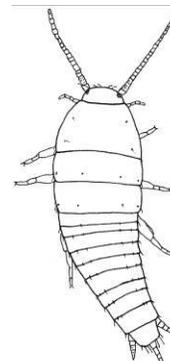


After 4 years in the job, I will be stepping down from the Circular Editor's position although I will still happily maintain the web page.

I'm using this last moment of editorial power to plug silverfish (pages 41 and 45) as an attractive and interesting group of insects (even if they don't have wings).

Thanks to those members and speakers who have supported me with content and emails of appreciation during my time in the job. I feel a great sense of satisfaction in having maintained a reasonable (if not stunning) publication and getting it out on time.

Graeme Smith



THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES INC

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010

GENERAL FUND

INCOME

Members subscriptions received and receivable	\$3,435.00	
Bank Interest	\$227.64	
Donations	\$150.00	
Cash in Hand refund from Business Manager	<u>\$150.00</u>	\$3,962.64

PAYMENTS

Insurance - Public liability	\$771.01	
Meeting Room hire	\$237.97	
Ent. Soc. of Australia affiliation fee	\$57.75	
Incorporation Statement lodgement fee	\$47.00	
Supper expenses	\$17.64	
Speakers' Gifts	\$26.90	
Postage expenses	<u>\$18.65</u>	\$1,176.92

Write down of Cash in Hand	\$150.00	\$150.00
	Result for 2010	\$2,635.72

PUBLICATION FUND

INCOME

Journal income received and receivable		\$3,166.35
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Less: Cost of Journal

Opening stock at Committee's valuation	\$3,320.00	
Journal postage and stationary	\$524.35	
Printing J. Vol. 39	\$1,063.60	
Telegraphic transfer fees	<u>\$20.00</u>	<u>\$4,927.95</u>

Plus:

Closing stock at Committee's valuation	\$2,320.00	
Company Associate Members	\$120.00	
Bank Interest	\$10.54	\$2,450.54
	Result for 2010	\$688.94

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2010

ACCUMULATED FUNDS

Balance to 31 December 2009		\$20,877.50
Results for the year	General Fund	\$2,635.72
	Publication Fund	\$688.94
Balance to 31 December 2010		<u>\$24,202.16</u>

REPRESENTED BY:

Cash at Bank	General Fund	\$9,880.89	
	Publication Fund	\$3,934.02	
	Term Deposit	<u>\$7,000.00</u>	\$20,814.91

Cash on hand		\$50.00
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Stock of Journals at Committee's valuation		\$2,320.00
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Debtors	Members subscription arrears	\$725.00	
	Journal payment arrears	<u>\$800.00</u>	<u>\$1,525.00</u>
			\$24,709.91

Less:

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Subscriptions in advance	\$360.00	
Journal advance payments	\$90.00	
Uncashed cheques	<u>\$57.75</u>	<u>\$507.75</u>

Total Assets 2010	\$24,202.16
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Contact with the Society web page

Our site attracts three or four phone calls (to my home phone) a month and some of the time these are from journalists looking for an expert to interview on some topical entomological issue, the most recent being an apparent “outbreak” of butterflies in NSW west of the divide. I do try to redirect these journalists to anybody I think might be able and willing to help I probably get two or three phone calls per month from people ringing the number on our web page and a couple of e-mails. I greatly appreciate the support of members to answer those that are outside my experience.

School holidays has also meant that we have had more contact from kids as seen from the two examples below. There's clearly interest in entomology in the up-and-coming generation but fostering it and being positive about job prospects in the field is something else.

Graeme Smith

Hi,

My name is Rex and I love bugs and insects. I am always chasing things around the paddock and while I am gentle I don't scare easily.

Do you have anything to offer or can suggest something for someone like me over the school holidays or weekends please?

I am 6 years old, can use the computer a bit, live at Arcadia in Sydney and really like bugs.

Thanks

Rex Prentice

A 6th Birthday Party

The Society received an enquiry via our web site email address as to whether we could provide an entomologist to take a group of 6 year old kids on a entomological walk at Stoney Range Reserve at Dee Why. As this is only just down the road from me, my wife and I agreed to have a go. I made a preliminary visit a few days before to find a few interesting (but stationary) entomological subjects such as lace wing eggs and their larval haunts, logs with cockroaches and termite nests etc. We also took along some stick insects (both Goliath and Spiny Leaf insects) just in case there was not too much happening on the day. I collected a large impressive centipede, a stink bug and a grasshopper with very strong jaws (all from my garden) as examples of why the kids shouldn't pick up anything they find.

It was chaotic! Kids at this age are more interested in the hunt than what they've found and they have the attention span of a gnat. We had to make sure that each kid had caught something to take back and show their mother before we later released it back into the wild.



The butterfly net had a real work out but it is amazing just how good butterflies are at avoiding capture so the kids started trying to catch each other. In the end we managed to catch a blue triangle, a common crow and a orchard swallowtail so everybody was happy. It was great having Louise along to stop me getting flustered by all the kids wanting everything at the same time.

Anyway after about 45 minutes we returned to the picnic area where all the bugs were forgotten as the plates of food and sweets appeared on the table. We gave the birthday boy a few stick insects as a birthday present and his mother emailed us to say they were a great hit and are doing well. She donated \$50 to the Society as thanks for our support.

Graeme Smith



Christmas Function

The society Christmas function was again held at the Boatshed café attended by about 20 members, partners and friends. As usual Ted and Mary-Lynn did a good job of organizing the event and decorating our dining area in an entomological theme.

Ted's entomological quiz certainly challenged us and I for one had a few blank spaces or incorrect answers. Prizes included such treats as ant-flavoured sweets with real ants embedded inside. The food at dinner was a lot more "mainstream".

Graeme Smith



Heterolepisma sp. Commonly occurring in drier microhabitats along the east coast of NSW

Insect of the Month

Coquillettidia xanthogaster (Diptera: Culicidae)

First described by F. W. Edwards in 1924 from specimens collected in Queensland, but found from southern NSW to Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia and Vanuatu, *Coquillettidia xanthogaster* is a distinctive golden yellow mosquito that belongs to a unique group of Australian mosquitoes.

The immature stages of species belonging to the genus *Coquillettidia* have a modified siphon that can be attached to the submerged roots of aquatic macrophytes to obtain oxygen. In the vast majority of mosquito species, the immature stages



breathe through their siphon at the water-air interface but *Coquillettidia* species exploit a unique ecological niche. In addition, while the development times of immature stages of most mosquitoes is relatively quick (about 7-10 days), the development time of *Cq. xanthogaster* is much longer (over 20 days) and this species is suspected to overwinter in the larval stage. The larval habitats of this species are considered extensive well vegetated freshwater wetlands but there are still gaps in our knowledge of the biology and ecology of this species.

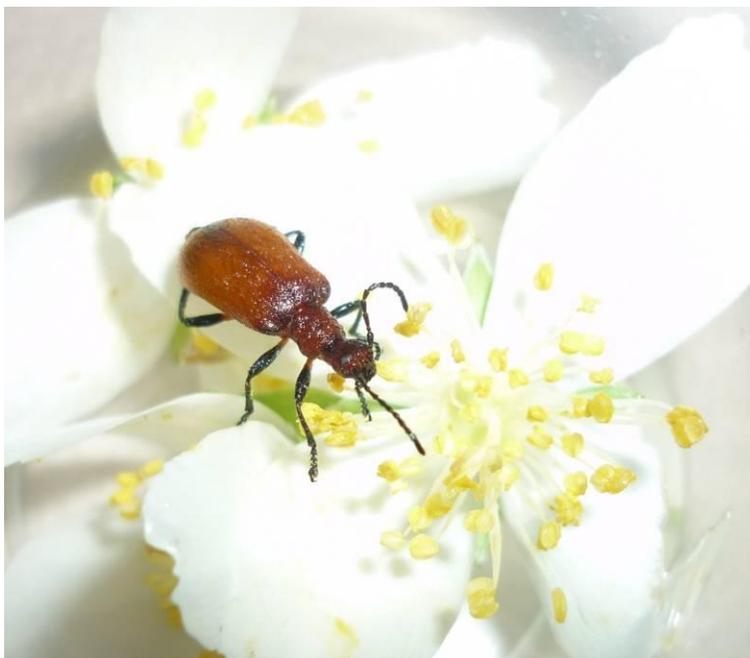
Little is known of this species' role in the transmission of disease although arboviruses, including Ross River virus and Barmah Forest virus have been detected in other *Coquillettidia* species. Human biting by *Cq. xanthogaster* has been documented but generally only close to larval habitats. Recently, in the Northern Territory, previously undescribed insect specific arboviruses have been identified from *Cq. xanthogaster*.

In NSW, *Cq. xanthogaster* is common on the north coast but while specimens have been collected from the south coast, this species was only recorded from the Sydney basin for the first time during the summer of 2008-2009 with two specimens collected from Sydney Olympic Park. Additional specimens were collected during the 2009-2010 summer and given the distinctiveness of this species and the long-term monitoring that has been undertaken at Sydney Olympic Park for the past 15 years, it is suspected that it may have recently been introduced, possibly with aquatic macrophytes used in wetland rehabilitation. However, important to note that this species is unlikely to pose any significant pest risk in the local area.

Cameron Webb

Show & Tell – November Meeting

Howard Greening bought along a few interesting finds including a beetle on flowers, a mole cricket and a cockroach



Robin Parson bought along *Xylonychus eucalypti* collected at Nelson Bay in Sept 2010 as well as a small dead specimen of a similar beetle.



Dinah Hales bought along the adult Orange Palm Dart Butterfly from the caterpillar she had shown at the previous meeting.

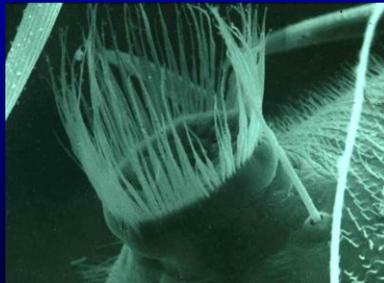


She also showed the larvae of the 3-lined potato beetle *Lema trivittata* Say) on Cape Gooseberry (*Physalis*) and an egg plant psyllid also on Cape Gooseberry (see Debbie Kent's talk from Tarsus 587 July 2009)- You can find it on our website if you don't keep old copies

<http://www.entsocnsw.org.au/images/stories/media/tarsus%20587%20july%202009.pdf>



Silverfish (Order Zygentoma)



Did you know?

That there are six “families” of silverfish

Two are relic groups known only from one or a few species (Lepidotrichidae from redwood forests in California and Maindroniidae from the NE Africa, the Middle East and Chile). Three “families” are recorded from Australia and all are fairly well represented if you look in the right places. (Ateluridae- especially in ant or termite nests; Nicoletiidae mostly deep underground; Lepismatidae drier microhabitats but especially in desert areas)

That silverfish can live for years

The common household species in Australia (*Ctenolepisma longicaudata*) can live for up to seven years; the European species (*Lepisma saccharina*) for up to five years.

Silverfish continue to moult after they have reached sexual maturity

Lepisma saccharina reaches sexual maturity after the eight moult but will moult up to 36 times before death.

Silverfish do not copulate

Fertilisation is external. The male and female participate in a bit of a dance after which the male deposits a package of sperm on the ground (or on a thread) and encourages the female to sit on it. Females need to mate again after each moult as the lining of the spermatheca is also shed at moulting.

Silverfish do not need to drink

The Nicoletiids and Atelurids have eversible vesicles that can take up water from moist films on surfaces but the Lepismatids can live in the driest deserts, often in soil with less than 1% moisture content. How do such soft bodied insects do this? Even after hours or days of dehydration they can restore their water content in a just a few hours by absorbing moisture from the atmosphere when relative humidity is greater than a certain threshold (as low as 45% in some species e.g. around dawn) AND they do this through their anus! I bet you can't do that.

Graeme Smith

Bi-monthly Meetings

The Society meets **BI-MONTHLY** unless otherwise advertised. 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
7.30 pm Wednesday 2 nd March, 2011	AGM	
Wednesday 4 th May, 2011	Will this meeting happen?	

Venue:

Meeting Room 2
Ermington Community Centre
10 River Road Ermington

Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. (directly following the Council meeting)

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 2009

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

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HON SECRETARY AND PUBLIC OFFICER
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