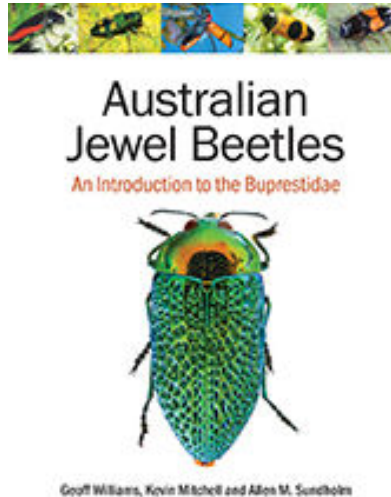


BOOK REVIEW

Australian Jewel Beetles: An Introduction to the Buprestidae

Geoff Williams, Keith Williams, Allen M. Sundholm
CSIRO Publishing. Hardback 224pp, AU \$195, ISBN 9781486317400



This is a marvellous book it presents a full summary of Australian buprestid fauna accompanied by gorgeous photography. It has taxonomic, ecological and biogeographic data for all Australian genera and shows how they fit in with the global Buprestidae. The book also looks at the evolution of plant associations and the important subject of threats to the Buprestidae. There are over 570 colour images, many are rare species.

Chapter 1. Covers a range of fascinating subjects: fossil history, Gondwana and terrestrial associations, warning and mimicry colouration for defence, life histories, plant associations and role as pollinators.

In Chapter 2 ecology, taxonomy and distribution are discussed. Also includes notes on how to best collect Buprestids and where. There are specular images of specimens.

Chapter 3 talks about regional Buprestid fauna. This is important given all the clearing, urbanisation and fragmentation that has happened. The literature is extensively discussed. Areas covered are: north Queensland and wet tropics, central Queensland, Brigalow belt, central and western NSW, Sydney and Blue Mountains, Barrington Tops, New England mountains and tablelands, littoral rainforests of northern NSW, north western Victoria, South Australia, south west Western Australian and Tasmania.

Chapter 4 deals with threats to the Buprestidae. Threats include broad scale clearing in NSW, Queensland and the wheat belt of WA, loss of coastal rainforests, fragmentation of native forests. The effects of a warming climate, fire, alien flower visitors ie honeybees and exotic plants. Collecting and trade in specimens is also a threat.

Appendices cover: List of Buprestid genera recorded from Australia; summary of larval and adult plant relationships; pollen loads; Fascinating information on early taxonomists and collectors; divisions of geological time. There is a glossary of tricky terms and comprehensive bibliography and index.

The authors have amalgamated a wealth of experience of the Australian Buprestid fauna into *Australian Jewel Beetles*. This book is a valuable reference and is recommended to entomologists and fellow Buprestid enthusiasts.

Dr Robin Gunning