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PH: +61 3 7038 9452

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NATIONAL INSTITUTE of ENTOMOLOGY NEWS



The
National
Institute of
Entomology

The official newsletter of the National Institute of Entomology

Volume 2: Issue 6

June 2026

FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Greetings everyone.

Now that the legal side of things for our occupancy of the Mitchell Shire Council's Kilmore Town Hall have been sorted, the Institute has been busy packing everything in order to be ready for the move.

All our Library publications are now transferred into boxes and some of us are busy assessing what specimens of the Central Victorian Regional Invertebrate Collection require cross pinning and support in order to be moved without being damaged.

Our imaging microscopes and cameras have also been safely stored and packed.

We also need to clear out the general office equipment such as printers, computers and stationary (quite a few items) and once these have been moved to

the new building, we will be ready for the removalists to arrive in order to handle the larger items.

We will be using Badger Removals again due to their previous experience handling the C.V.R.I.C material when it was first relocated from Bendigo La Trobe University to Woodend back in 2022.

There are several very large desks, bookshelves, large screen monitors as well as the Entomological Storage Cabinets that will need to be carried downstairs and strong, stable hands will be appreciated.

We are all getting excited as we prepare to move to our new home.

Hopefully, we will be providing updates and images for you in next months issue.

Cheers.

Dr Bert Candusio



One of the C.V.R.I.C Entomological Cabinets leaving Bendigo La Trobe University on its way to Woodend in 2022.

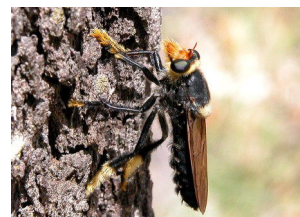
ABC Radio Gets The Scoop

ABC Radio Ballarat recently became aware of the successful outcome for the new permanent home for the National Institute of Entomology and decided to run with the story.

Prue Bentley the presenter was keen to fire off some interesting questions to the Board Chairman Dr Bert Candusio including what are his favorite insect/s housed in the C.V.R.I.C Collections.

Dr Candusio responded that one particular specimen had always been one of his favorites which also happens to be one of the worlds largest flies, the Giant Robber Fly *Phellus olgae*.

Here is the link to the ABC Radio [Ballarat Episode](#) and the story begins around the 2:27:00 mark.



One of the largest flies in the world represented in the Institutes Collections: *Phellus olgae*

Institute Database Expanded

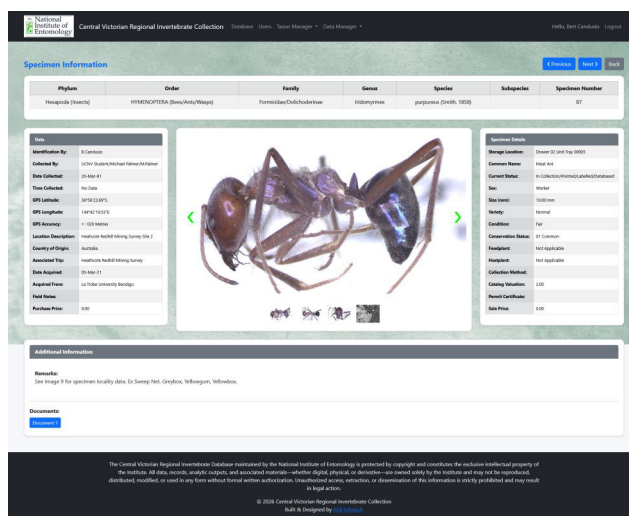
The National Institute of Entomology Database has undergone several upgrades and changes in the last few weeks.

The system has now been modified in order to be ready for not just insects, but all known invertebrate groups occurring throughout Australia.

These modifications have

been made so that once the Institute has completed its move to the new location in Kilmore, volunteers will be able to enter all records for all taxonomic groups.

Dr Candusio, Chairman of the Institute said that the C.V.R.I.C collections contain a huge number of non insect specimens that will require entry into the system. "Its now ready", he said.



Institute Chairman Delivers U3A Lecture

Dr Bert Candusio was recently invited to present a lecture regarding the activities of the institute as well as a presentation on the history and development of the Central Victorian Regional Invertebrate Collection (C.V.R.I.C). The audience was given a history of the C.V.R.I.C that spans nearly 70 years.

Beginning around 1956, Dr Candusio outlined the early stages of the collection at the Mechanics Institute and School of Mines in Bendigo and how it was eventually transferred to the La Trobe University campus in 1971.

It remained at the University until 2022 when

it was transferred to Woodend in 2022.

The collection will once again be relocated shortly to its final and permanent home in the former Kilmore Town Hall Building.

Quite a history for an insect collection indeed.



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Asian Tiger Mosquito Detected in Australia

The world's most invasive mosquito, known as the "barbecue stopper", has been detected for the first time on the Australian mainland.

Health authorities said six Asian tiger mosquitoes (*Aedes albopictus*) were found during routine surveillance near the Bamaga community, about 750 kilometres north-west of Cairns.

An aggressive daytime-biting insect, it can spread human viral diseases such as dengue and Japanese encephalitis.

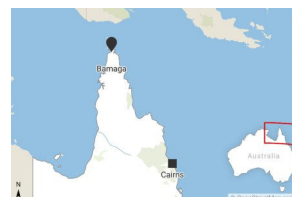
State MP for Cook David Kempton said while it is not considered an outbreak, the discovery was three males and three females.

"The biggest questions are, where are they coming from, and where are they now?" he said.

Biology lecturer Tom Schmidt is an expert on the evolution of invasive insects.

Dr Schmidt said the species excelled at travelling with boats, planes, and trucks, and can survive cooler weather better than other tropical mosquitoes.

"I think this is the first time that they're seeing multiple individuals on the mainland and not at an airport or seaport," he said.



Mildura Womans Photo A First

When Judy Allen took her camera along for a bushwalk through some scrub near Red Cliffs last February, she had little idea she would soon make an unexpected scientific discovery.

The Mildura resident is a regular user of the iNaturalist website, and often documents the plants and insects in her area to gain some expert insight into her local surrounds.

So when she took a photo of an Antlion bug in the nearby town of Red Cliffs, she did not think too much of it.

But after she uploaded the image online, an expert informed her she had taken a rare wild photo of a *Myrmeleon houstoni*, an insect that has never been officially photographed in the wild. "I was taking photos of plants, but when you're out in the bush doing bushwalks, you just find other things," she said.

"I didn't know what it was." Ms Allen said she was "blown away" by the response to her

upload, which she caught attached to a twig.

She said it had not been hard to spot; the insect was perched on a bush at eye level, almost directly on her path.

"[It was] sort of waiting to be seen, waiting to be photographed," she said.



Cont...

Not to be outdone, Ms Allen's daughter Triona has since also photographed a *Myrmeleon houstoni* in a different part of the Mallee.

On iNaturalist, the mother and daughter duo are the only people to have photographed the *Myrmeleon houstoni* in the wild.

Cameron Slatyer, project manager of biodiversity initiatives at the CSIRO, said while the *Myrmeleon houstoni* was found across the country, the

only official photos known to exist were of the bugs in museums.

"No-one's actually ever publicly photographed one before," he said. "This is the first public image that's ever been found of this particular species."

Mr Slatyer said *Myrmeleon houstoni* lived in sandy areas, where they formed conical burrows to trap ants.

"If an ant comes along,

the larva actually spit grains of sand or dirt at the ant until it falls down the cone and once it's in the cone, it can't get back out," he said. "Then the larva reaches up and eats it ... but at a certain point in their life cycle, they then pupate and emerge into an insect that looks very similar to a dragonfly."

Mr Slatyer said there were records of the species throughout Australia, but there were gaps in the data.



The *Myrmeleon houstoni* photographed at home by Judy Allen after being caught. (Supplied: Judy Allen)

Mini Exhibitions Planned

As the National Institute of Entomology prepares for its relocation to the Kilmore Town Hall, the institute is looking into the exciting possibility for the running of several mini exhibitions throughout the year.

Adjacent to the Institute building is the Kilmore Memorial Hall, a substantial building that is perfectly suitable for hosting various themed exhibits.

These could include 'Beetles of the World' or 'Tropical

Butterflies of Indonesia'.

The institute could also display parts of the CVRIC Collections to the public.

More news soon...



The Kilmore Memorial Hall next to the Institute of Entomology Building would be ideally suitable for the running of a series of mini exhibitions throughout the year.

Help Support Our Go Fund Me

The National Institute of Entomology has begun a Go Fund Me campaign for essential equipment that will be required at the new facility once we settle in.

The new site, situated at 16 Sydney Street, Kilmore Victoria, will require up to 30 research grade microscopes for use by students undertaking specific in house courses with the Institute.

Although there are cheaper models that are manufactured

in China, the optical quality of these instruments is not to the standard required.

The institute will be looking at acquiring used but good quality Olympus SZ40 or SZ 60 Models with trinocular configurations to allow the attachment of imaging instruments to be added at a later stage.

Please consider supporting this important fundraising effort for our future students.

<https://gofund.me/376dd5d55>



Two of the Models of the Olympus SZ40 that will be required for institute students. 30 of these units will be needed.

Institute Memberships

Becoming a Member of the National Institute of Entomology offers several benefits such as:

1: Discounts to Members wishing to undertake our Courses and Training Programs.

2: Access to our facilities if you are wishing to work on your own Research or Study Project.

3: Members are offered the opportunity to serve on a variety of Organising Committees and Sub Committees.

4: As a Member of the National Institute of Entomology, you receive our Monthly Newsletter keeping you updated on Insti-

tute News.

5: You are granted access to the Institutes extensive Forums covering Taxonomy/News/Job Vacancies and Volunteer Opportunities.

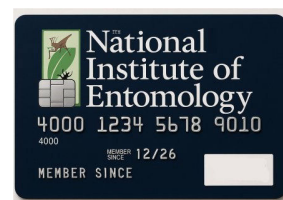
6: Discounted tickets to the annual National Insect Expo.

7: Opportunity to volunteer in the Institutes Research activities and other supporting roles.

8: Meet new like minded people passionate about the wonderful world of insects.

To become a Member of the National Institute of Entomology, please visit our

[Membership Page](#) for further details and Membership Options.



C.V.R.I.C Specimen Spotlight

C.V.R.I.C Specimen: 000507

Archimantis sobrina (Saussure, 1872)
Mantidae / Mantodea
K.McGenniskin
04/01/2025
-36.534886
144.211936

Commonly known as the large brown mantis (also known as the bunny mantis or Australian ghost hopper mantis) is a species of mantid native to Australia.

The large brown mantis has two subspecies, a widespread subspecies and the stick mantis ghost from Bundaberg's Turtle Sands. The stick mantis ghosts are not as aggressive as the

widespread species but have a defense display used to make the mantis appear larger by flinging its front legs into the air and putting its head down along with its antennae.

Large brown mantids are light brown with short winged female and a long winged male.

The subspecies from Bundaberg is a pale cream white with a yellow and black eye in between the arms (one and a half times the size of the widespread subspecies). The large brown mantis female is short winged - her wings reach only half her abdomen and she is not able to fly— but the long winged male has wings that cover the entire abdomen.

They have two pairs of wings - the top pair are the wing covers and the bottom wings enable the mantis to fly.



Volunteer of the Month - Vladimir Bykovec

Vladimir Bykovec has always had a fascination for nature and landscapes.

As a professional photographer, Vlad has given his support to the National Institute of Entomology from the very first Expo in 2022 and plays the role of Official Photographer for our

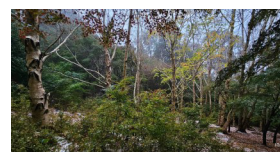
organisations events.

He has always provided exceptional images whether they be landscapes, nature wildlife or portraits and this is a testimony to his skills and experience with the camera.

Here is a [link](#) to more of his work.



Many thanks Vlad for your support over the years.



Some examples of Vlad's work.

Book Review - Dragonflies and Damselflies of Victoria and Tasmania

Dragonflies and Damselflies of Victoria and Tasmania by Reiner Richter and Ian Endersby and published by the Entomological Society of Victoria is one of the must have reference books for anyone interested in this fascinating group of insects.

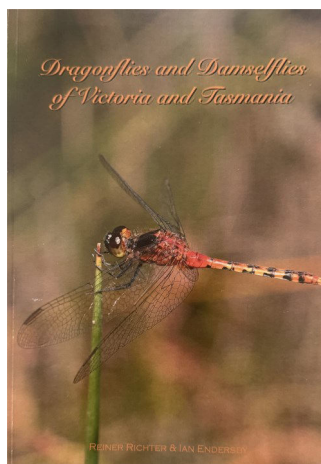
Covering all known species found in these 2 states, the book gives information on the distribution of species and covers anatomical features of both the Anisoptera (dragonflies) and the Zygoptera (damselflies) in order to assist the reader.

Every individual species has its location and distribution range described and mapped and the behaviour and biology is also de-

scribed.

A checklist of all known species is also provided. The images of all specimens are clear and of high quality which will assist the user to easily identify what species have been observed.

Although it comes in softback only, the publication is of a size that makes it usable as a field guide while the user is out and about.



Dragonflies and Damselflies of Victoria and Tasmania by Reiner Richter and Ian Endersby.

Published by the Entomological Society of Victoria.

Prehistoric 19 Metre Long Octopus Fossil Discovered

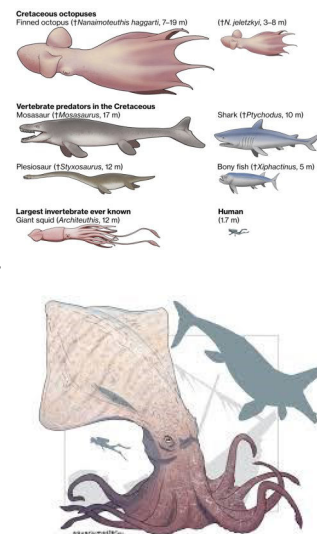
The top predator prowling the seas during the age of the dinosaurs 100 million years ago may have been the octopus.

New analyses of fossilised jaws reveal that massive, kraken-like octopuses once hunted alongside other marine predators. They boasted eight arms and long bodies that extended up to 19 metres, rivaling other carnivorous marine reptiles.

"These krakens must have been a fearsome sight to behold," University of Alabama palaeontologist Adiel Klompmaker said in an email. He had no role in the new research.

Dinosaur fans know that late Cretaceous-era waters were ruled by **sharp-toothed sharks** and sea reptiles known as mosasaurs and plesiosaurs.

Why do octopuses get left out of the mix? Scientists have studied giant **octopus** relatives that roamed when dinosaurs were around, and researched some small octopuses that drilled into clams. But since their soft bodies don't preserve well, it's hard to figure out exactly how big the creatures got.



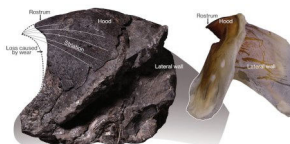
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There's also a perception that squishy invertebrates – creatures without backbones – weren't formidable enough to join the ranks of top predators. But octopus' beaks made of stiffened chitin are tough enough to crush shelled and bony critters. In the new study, researchers studied the jaws of 15 ancient octopus **fossils** that were previously found in Japan and Canada's Vancouver Island.

They also identified 12 more jaws from Japan using a technique they created called digital fossil mining, which closely scans rocks in cross-sections to reveal fossils hiding inside.

They compared the jaws to that of modern-day octopuses to estimate how large the creatures may have been, and determined that the ancient octopuses ranged from seven to 19 metres in length.

The largest jaw was substantially bigger than that of any modern octopus, said co-author and **palaeontologist** Yasuhiro Iba with Hokkaido University in an email. They also found that the largest creatures' jaws had significant wear and tear including scratches, chips and rounded edges, suggesting that "the animals repeatedly crushed hard prey such as shells and bones," said Iba.

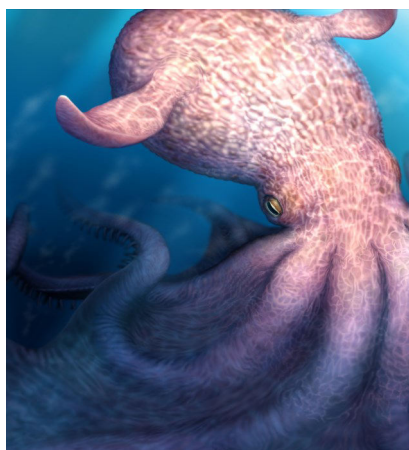


Above illustrations showing the appearance and biting fossilized beak of the adult

Cont...

Without access to the octopuses' stomach contents, it's hard to know for sure what they were eating or whether they truly competed with other top predators for their meals.

They could have snacked on fish or snails, snatching prey with flexible arms and breaking it apart with their beaks.



One In 50 Million!

A rare split-colored lobster, estimated to occur in just one in 50 million cases, has been discovered off the coast of Cape Cod.

The crustacean was caught by a fishing crew, with Wellfleet Shellfish Company sharing details of the find in a [Facebook](#) post.

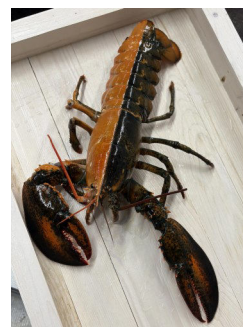
Distinctly divided down the centre, the lobster displays two contrasting colours – a vivid orange on one side and a dark, almost black hue on the other.

Its claws show a blend of both tones, while one side of its legs appears more orange, and even its whiskers differ in colour. Such lobsters are considered exceptionally rare, with scientists attributing the phenomenon to unusual genetic conditions.

These can include instances where two fertilised eggs fuse early in development, resulting in a single animal carrying two separate sets of DNA. Other explanations include genetic mosaicism or pigment irregularities.

Rather than being sold for consumption, the lobster has been spared and will be 'donated' to Woods Hole Science Aquarium, where 'she'll eventually be on display for the public to experience up close once they reopen.'

In the meantime, it is being cared for by specialists at the Marine Biological Laboratory, working alongside the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in Woods Hole, Massachusetts.



Scientists discover nine new species overlooked in museum drawers

Nine new butterfly species have been discovered hiding in 'plain sight' among the some 80,000 drawers that make up the lepidoptera collection of the Natural History Museum, London.

A study describing the finds—which hail from Brazil, Colombia, French Guiana and Peru—has been published in the scientific journal *Zootaxa*.

"Thanks to the genetic revolution and the collaboration of researchers and museums in various countries led by London's Natural History Museum,

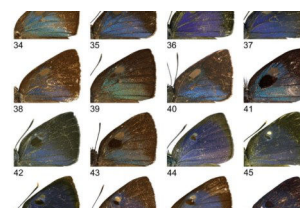
century-old butterflies are now speaking to us," paper author Christophe Faynel, an expert in hairstreak butterflies, said in a statement.

"By comparing modern DNA with ancient DNA from historical specimens, we can resolve long-confused and unnoticed species and uncover greater biodiversity than previously known."

The international team of had combined geographical, morphological

and molecular analysis to determine whether the specimens had yet to be properly assessed for identification.

The task was tough thanks to the fact that these butterflies can be extremely hard to tell apart, despite these insects generally being thought of as having unique and bright colored wings that could be simple to differentiate.



A plate illustrating the forewing androconia of 16 male butterflies in the *Thereus genena* species group.

New Species Larrakia feather-legged assassin discovered

A new species of insect, named the Larrakia feather-legged assassin bug, has been discovered by chance just outside of Darwin.

The new species releases a secretion that attracts prey, allowing the bug to stab and feed on ants. The Larrakia feather-legged assassin bug was first spotted just 10 kilometers from Darwin's CBD, with British ecologist Daniel Bardey discovering the species by chance at

Charles Darwin National Park while on a trip to Australia.

Fur-covered legs make the *Ptilocnemus larrakia* unique — but, according Mr Bardey, researchers are yet to confirm what purpose this feature serves.

"It's still a bit uncertain, but I've seen some preliminary research where it provides protection against biting ants, which is their predominant prey," he said.



An Expo Exhibitor Story - Dockrill Habitats

Dockrill Habitats is a small family run business based in Melbourne, Australia, created by Rhys Dockrill and Stephanie Lukas. What began as a hobby and a love for invertebrates, slowly turned into a business after we realised just how quickly a passion for phasmids can grow!

Today, we specialise in captive bred invertebrates and custom acrylic enclosures, supplying both hobbyists and businesses across Australia.

We are especially passionate about phasmids and currently keep more than 40 species, alongside a variety of other fascinating invertebrates.

As our own collection expanded, we found it difficult to source enclosures that were practical and looked great in the home, so we started designing and building our own.

What started with a few rough prototypes in 2019 became years of



Dockrill habitats puts on an amazing display each year at the National Insect Expo

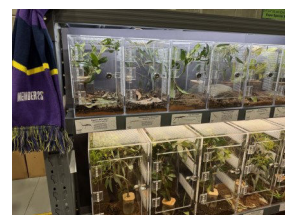
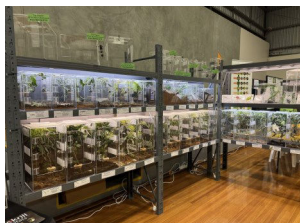
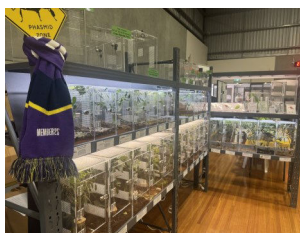
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experimenting, learning and improving to create the enclosures we use and love today.

At Dockrill Habitats, we believe keeping invertebrates allows people to connect with nature in a unique and meaningful way.

We are passionate about responsible keeping and conservation, which is why we only sell captive bred invertebrates.

One of the best parts of what we do is attending expos and events, where we can connect with fellow enthusiasts, share knowledge and meet so many passionate people within the invertebrate community.



Some of the huge assortment of the various model enclosures designed and manufactured by the Dockrill Habitats team.

Institute Pioneers - Trevor Glyn Jones

Trevor Glyn Jones first visited the Insectarium of Victoria back in 1993 and instantly wanted to get involved.

Be it acquiring specimens for the collections or lending a hand towards field trips, setting up surveys and general support, Trevor has remained as keen a part of the National Institute of Entomology as ever before.

Every year, Trevor throws 100% towards setting up of the National Insect Expo and is so efficient that he can have all 100+ exhibitor tables in their

exact and specified positions in less than 90 Minutes!!

He has always been a great lover of nature and the environment and has demonstrated on many occasions his almost superhuman eyesight. He once was able to demonstrate this ability by pointing out a fly at 20 meters!. Being a modest gentleman, his painted portrait will have to suffice.



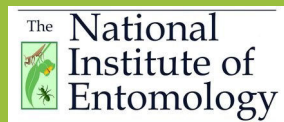
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Members Committee Opportunity

The National Institute of Entomology will shortly be calling for interested members to serve on the Institutes Funding and Grants Committee.

The role of the Committee will be to apply for grants and funding in order to assist the Institute towards equipment acquisitions, purchase of entomological storage cabinets and other equipment or institute training and courses programs.

Keep watching this section for further announcements and when to apply.

The Institute is supported by the kind generosity of members of the public by way of donations to the Institute. Such donations may be in the form of unwanted Scientific Equipment (microscopes, laboratory supplies etc), Entomological Reference Books, Audio Visual Equipment, Entomological Insect Collections or Monetary Donations.



These generous contributions assist the Institute in supporting our students and members of the public that are undergoing entomological studies and programs as well as supporting the Institutes Ongoing Research Work. If you are wanting to make a valued Donation towards our work, here is the link: [Donations](#)

If you would like to consider and discuss making another non monetary donation to the National Institute of Entomology, please feel free to contact us on [ad-min@entoinsitute.org](mailto:admin@entoinsitute.org)

Study Opportunities

The National Institute of Entomology provides specific On-Line Courses, Training Presentations, National Entomology Club, Demonstrations and Entomological Lectures that can cater for both the individual or a larger group of up to 50 students interested in gaining knowledge on various entomology based subjects.

Courses and Programs are offered throughout the year and include Certificate Courses in General Entomology, Applied Entomology, Insect Classification, Identification Courses, Entomological Collecting Techniques and much more.

See our [COURSES PAGE](#) for more details.

Say goodbye to You-Tube videos. Here you get to directly interact with, as well as ask questions to your National Institute of Entomology Lecturer in real time.

Our C.S.I.R.O Qualified presenters will show you that there is no better or more effective way to learn a valuable entomological skill or acquiring an Entomological Course Certificate than by using the Institutes On-Line programs.

From Specialist Courses, Identification of Insects, Preserving Specimens, Rearing Techniques....the subjects available to you are vast.

Want to have something

specific presented to you or your group? This is the place for all your Courses, Lecture and Demonstration requirements. Details on all courses are available on our [COURSES PAGE](#).

The Institute uses Zoom, a popular conferencing application for both PC or Mobile devices. You can download Zoom here: [ZOOM DOWN-LOAD PAGE](#)

