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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 8

August 2026

## FROM THE CHAIRMAN



Hello Everyone.

Its been an eventful few weeks for us here as the lease details for our permanent home at the Kilmore Town Hall have been finalized and signed.

We have commenced moving all our Equipment, Furniture and Specimen Collections to the facility and will receive our new Library Bookshelves shortly.

We have also managed to acquire some of the previous tenants furnishings at a great price and that means we wont need to hunt around for those needed items.

The lease was signed on the 20th of July at the Broadford Shire Offices and this date happens to commemorate the first Lunar Landing by Neil Armstrong...Nice.



Dr Bert Candusio signing the long term lease giving the National Institute of Entomology a permanent home.

Bye for now.



Dr Bert Candusio and Shire of Mitchell Property Manager Jo-Ann Booth after the signing.

Dr Bert Candusio

## Signed Sealed and Delivered

Over the next few weeks, the entire building will be thoroughly cleaned and all electricals and wiring will be examined for safety.

Once the Collections arrive, an Integrated Pest Management Program will be put into effect in order to control any form of potential vermin such as Ants, Cockroaches, Museum Beetles, Rats and Mice.



Pictured left are Dr Bert Candusio and the new Shire of Mitchell Chief Economic Development Officer Bruce Marshall after signing the lease documents with smiles all around.

It is hoped that once everything is in its place at the facility, a Public Opening Ceremony Date will be announced. I wonder who it will be that proclaims the center 'OPEN' ??

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## Dung Beetle Exchange

More than 8,000 Bubas bison dung beetles have been sent from South Australia to Tasmania by express post, with the aim to increase calendar coverage of dung beetles in livestock-dense areas during the winter.

In return, shipments of blue bomber dung beetles have been sent from Tasmania to South Australia to cover the Bubas bison's dormant seasons. The exchange has been going for five years and will be in place until the species become fully established in their new home states.

The 8,400 Bubas bison tunneling dung beetles travelled via express post from Reedy Creek in southern South Australia to Burnie in Tasmania's north-west.

The packages are part of a yearly agricultural exchange that began five years ago, "a bit by accident". It all started when South Australian farmer Matthew Robertson read an article Mr. O'Malley wrote about *Geotrupes spiniger* "blue bomber" dung beetles for the Cradle Coast Natural Resource Management (NRM) newsletter.

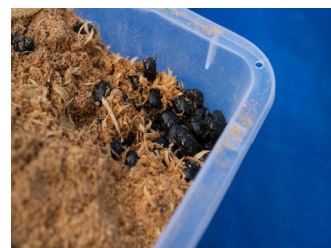
Mr. Robertson reached out, saying he was looking for some tunneling dung beetles that were active during summer, and after chatting, the pair quickly realized they may be able to help each other.

Mr. Robertson had an established Bubas bison population on his property that was active during winter and spring, while Mr. O'Malley had an abundance of blue bombers that were active during summer and autumn.

The idea of a dung beetle exchange was born.



Tom O'Malley facilitates the exchange of dung beetles between Tasmania and South Australia. (ABC News: Mackenzie Heard)



## Mosquitoes can learn to be attracted to the smell of repellent, study finds

Scientists have found that mosquitoes can learn to associate repellent with food.

Their study suggests mosquitoes can overcome their aversion to repellents, which could have implications for our understanding of what steps we need to take to protect ourselves from being bitten.

The researchers say these findings haven't been tested in mosquitoes outside the lab, and that people should continue to use repellents to prevent a range of potentially deadly diseases. Scientists have found that mosquitoes can be trained to connect the smell of a widely used repellent (diethyltoluamide, or DEET) with food. Claudio Lazzari, lead author on the paper and a researcher at the Uni-

versity of Tours in France, said this was the first time anyone had reported mosquitoes being attracted to DEET.

The researchers put mosquitoes one-by-one into a small tube covered with mesh, set up with a mechanism for pumping the smell of DEET through, and warm bags of sheep's blood to feed from. After letting the mosquitoes feast on blood for 20 seconds, the researchers wafted DEET into their tubes for 10 seconds.

They ran this training regimen three times, then tested the mosquitoes' DEET response by spraying the smell into the enclosure without adding food.

Sixty per cent of the trained mosquitoes tried to bite at non-existent blood bags, suggesting they'd learned the smell of DEET signaled dinner.



## Locust outbreak 'unlikely' in South Australia

The Department of Primary Industries and Regions has finished surveying a potential locust outbreak in South Australia's River land region, after swarms were reported in late April.

It has been more than 15 years since South Australia's last outbreak, which cost the state government more than \$12 million in 2010. Experts say it is impossible to know until spring if there will be an outbreak, but there is optimism El Niño weather conditions will keep numbers manageable.

Swarms of locusts made their way to South Australia's River land region from western New South Wales at the end of April as part of a migration event.

Dr Hennecke said events such as the one in late April were "not uncommon", particularly given heavy rain across the River land after long stretches of dry weather.

"The population will start building up and trying to lay eggs in spring when the locust season begins," Dr Hennecke said.

"It's quite unusual that we get significant populations of locusts in the River land," Mr. McManus said.

"We do get them in the southern Flinders and Mid North region more regularly.

"There's plenty of green feed in those areas this season, so if locusts lay their eggs there, we could have a problem in spring."

Those in the Mid North, River land and Flinders will be desperate to avoid a repeat of 2010.



In many paddocks in South Australia's River land, you cannot take a step without swarms of locusts hopping around. (ABC River land: Amelia Walters)

## Entomological Pokémon??

Pokémon Red and Blue came out in Japan 30 years ago.

The humble black-and-white Game Boy games — plus the Japan-only Green — introduced us to Pikachu and 150 other cute anime monsters, and started a series which reportedly overtook Disney as the world's highest-grossing franchise.

Pokémon's creator, Satoshi Tajiri, was inspired by his childhood as a hobbyist entomologist, hunting Japanese rhinoceros beetles in Tokyo's rural outskirts. A playground phenomenon that became an enduring commercial juggernaut, at heart his most famous work is about citizen science,

a project to catalogue and conserve virtual ecology. Emerging from a fascination with the natural world, it's no surprise Pokémon has left its mark on Australian entomology.

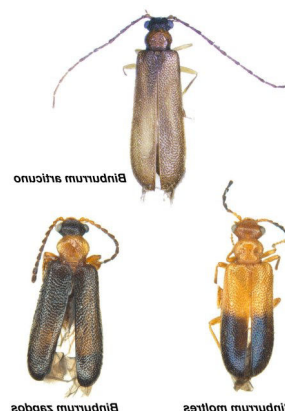
Yun Hsiao, now assistant professor at National Chung Hsing University's Department of Entomology, mirrored Tajiri as a five-year-old.

He spent his childhood with a net in hand, looking for insects in Taiwan's undergrowth. "It was similar to Pokémon," he says, remembering the days when fieldwork was much less complicated," Dr Hsiao says. "You just go to the grass and swipe your nets and find some insects."

While studying Australian fire-colored beetles in CSIRO's Australian National Insect Collection in Canberra, Dr Hsiao noticed three intriguing species entirely new to science.

Confirming the rare discovery in 2021 with Professor Darren Pollack from Eastern New Mexico University, he wanted their names to stand out.

Due to their obscure rarity he named them after Pokémon's three legendary birds: one-of-a-kind quasi-mystical monsters called Articuno, Moltres and Zapdos.



Three endemic Australian beetles discovered by Yun Hsiao in CSIRO's Australian National Insect Collection. (Supplied: Yun Hsiao)

## Support Needed For 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 Membership

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 Organizing Committees and Sub Committees.

4: As a Member of the National Institute of Entomology, you receive our Monthly Newsletter

keeping you updated on Institute News.

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

6: Discounted Members Tickets to the annual National Insect Expo.

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

[Membership Page](#) for further details and Membership Op-

tions or call the Institute on 03 7038 9452.

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## C.V.R.I.C Specimen Spotlight

### C.V.R.I.C Specimen:000120

**HYMENOPTERA / Formicidae / Myrmicinae**

**Podomyrma adelaidae (Smith, 1858)**

**Collection Date: 05 Mar 2021  
B.Candusio / Red Hill Mine  
Survey / Heathcote. VIC**

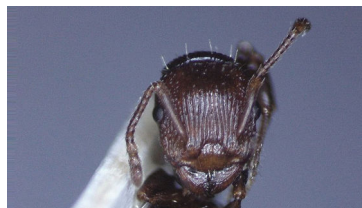
These common ants nest in solid dead wood, often in pre-existing beetle burrows or cracks in trunks, in twigs, vines and mangrove, in large seeds and galls, or occasionally in the ground.

Foraging is most common on tree trunks or around the base of trees and in the surrounding litter, as well as on grasses,

especially in evenings.

Most workers forage individually and trails are uncommon. Some species are primarily nocturnal and are rarely collected except at baits, while others will forage day and night.

Although they can be common, they are often overlooked or are difficult to find because of their arboreal habits.



## Current Courses

Current courses listed here are now open for enrollments and include programs that range from Basic to Advanced Level Instruction and would suit students from early secondary to university level.

The National Bug Club is suitable for young students from 7 to 17 years of age.

The Institute recommends that students begin with our most popular entry level **INTRODUCTION TO ENTOMOLOGY COURSE (NIOE - 01C)** which allows the student to gain a good foundation of entomology in general and assists

assists the student in progressing towards more advanced courses if he or she wishes. This fundamental course is run throughout the year.

The Insect Morphology Modules one and two will introduce the student to the external morphology of the insect in general and will look at the variability, adaptability and functions of each feature.

For further details regarding these courses, please contact the Institute on 03 7038 9452 or email us on [admin@entoinsitute.org](mailto:admin@entoinsitute.org)

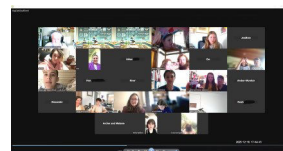
### COURSES DATES

[Introduction to Entomology: October 19th 2026.](#)

[National Bug Club Term 3: Every Tuesday 5:30 - 6:00 Pm.](#)

[Insect Morphology Module 1: October 2026.](#)

[Insect Morphology Module 2: November 2026.](#)



## Book Review - Guide to the Beetles of South Australia

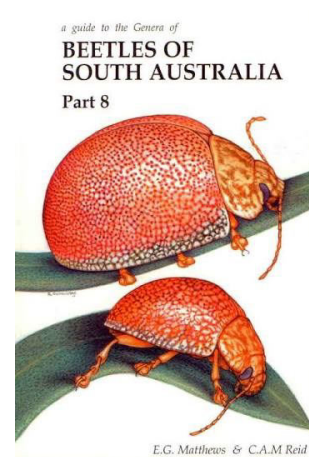
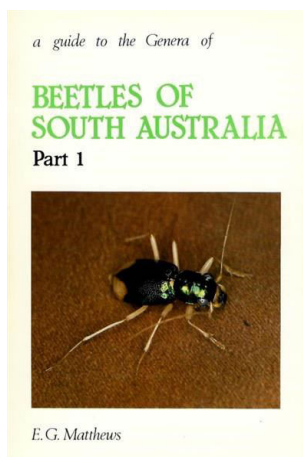
*A Guide to the Genera of Beetles of South Australia* by E.G. Matthews is a landmark multi-part regional identification series published by the South Australian Museum.

Reviewers praise it as an essential, high-utility taxonomic tool whose usefulness extends far beyond South Australia's borders.

The series contains rigorous, clear morphological keys for identifying beetle specimens down to the Genus level and despite the regional title, the inclusion of major Australian genera make it valuable across the entire continent.

Authored by Eric G. Matthews, a respected honorary research fellow known for making complex coleopteran taxonomy accessible to specialists and dedicated students, this work was released in incremental parts over many years (such as Part 6 covering specialized super families like Cleroidea and Cucujoidea), making a complete single bound set a long term project.

Although this series is geared towards professional entomologists, coleopterists and advanced researchers, the casual beetle observer will find it very useful as a general guide.



## Major Milestone Bug Hunt

When Jess Ward-Jones was a child, roaming through nature every weekend in search of curious critters was a common occurrence.

"Bugs are my great love," she said, with a particular fondness for the velvet worm which "sprays Spider-Man slime out of their face".

"I just had this natural curiosity for looking at the life that lived around us in nature and how these tiny little beasts were the backbone to a healthy, natural ecosystem," she said.

Ms Ward-Jones is now a citizen science coordinator for Bug Hunt Australia and the Invasive Species Council, putting her expertise and passion to good use. With just a phone and a curious eye, Australians from all walks of life are participating in the Bug Hunt, recording the invertebrates that live in their gardens, parks and bush lands.

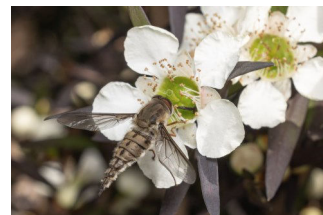
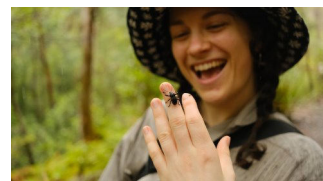
The national citizen-science initiative is led by the Invasive Species Council and Invertebrates Australia.

Since launching in October 2025, more than 1 million

observations of insects, spiders, snails and other invertebrates have been uploaded.

"It's just incredible that so many people really care and are really getting excited about this initiative," Ms Ward-Jones said.

"I think it tells you how easy and how accessible this project is while making a massive difference."



**Trichophthalma fly.**  
(Supplied: Tim Rudman)

## Cont...Young Ones Get Involved

Participants are asked to take a photo of an insect or other invertebrate and upload the images and other observational information to the free iNaturalist app.

Approved insect experts in the community then identify and catalogue them for further scientific research.

"The best part is that these records go off to Atlas of Living Australia [Australia's national biodiversity database],

where scientists at the CSIRO can learn about that bug," Ms Ward-Jones said.

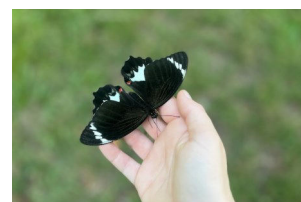
"We have about 300,000 native species and 200,000 of those are undescribed by Western science."

Participants are asked to take a photo of an insect or other invertebrate and upload the images and other observational information to the free iNaturalist app.

Approved insect experts in the community then identify and catalogue them for further scientific research.

"If you can't get the kids out of the house, it's a great incentive — it's a good game for them."

"The girls are now really looking out for insects and going around through nature more."



**An orchard swallowtail.**  
(Supplied: Jess Ward-Jones)

## New Ballistic Spider Discovered

A bizarre species of spider from the remote rainforests of Far North Queensland springs a nasty surprise when its prey is lured into its web.

The tiny and newly discovered ballista spider — named after an ancient Roman weapon that used a spring to launch a stone — uses an ingenious method to literally launch its prey into the air.

A fussy eater, the spider targets a single species, the territorial and aggressive green tree ant, *Oecophylla smaragdina*, which it lures with a fragrant

pheromone. And its hunting technique is extraordinary.

First, the nocturnal spider builds an anchor point on a leaf, a branch, or the forest floor, before spending up to four hours spinning up to 60 vertical tension lines bundled together in a cone near the ground.

The spider then wraps the cone with extra silk before retreating upwards.

When the ant is attracted, it

reacts aggressively, biting the cone and detaching it from the anchor point.

The ant is then catapulted more than 30 centimeters upwards into the spider's core web, at an acceleration of more than 1,300 meters per second squared.



**A newly discovered spider uses an ingenious method to launch its prey into the air, named after an ancient Roman weapon. The ballista spider was discovered in the rainforests of Far North Queensland.**

## An Expo Exhibitor Story - Citrus Watch

CitrusWatch is a national program helping to protect Australia's citrus industry from serious pests and diseases that are not currently found here.

Established in 2001, the program brings together Plant Health Australia, Citrus Australia, the Northern Territory government, government agencies, researchers, community groups, citrus businesses and the public.

Its aim is to make it easier for people to spot and report unusual pests early, before they have a chance to spread. CitrusWatch works across commercial citrus-growing areas and urban communities, where backyard citrus trees can also play an important role in biosecurity.

Through training, education and practical resources, the program supports a volunteer early detector network and helps people learn how to identify high-priority threats such as Asian citrus psyllid, African citrus psyllid and huánglongbing disease.

By sharing clear information and encouraging more people to take part, CitrusWatch is building stronger awareness of biosecurity and the simple actions everyone can take to help protect citrus.



The program also helps connect industry and community members with the knowledge they need to recognise possible pest problems and report them quickly.



The program also helps connect industry and community members with the knowledge they need to recognise possible pest problems and report them quickly.

CitrusWatch is funded by Hort Innovation using the citrus research and development levy and contributions from the Australian Government, as well as support from Plant Health Australia through the citrus plant health levy.

Together, these partnerships are helping create a stronger, more prepared citrus industry and a more informed community.

To learn how you can get involved with CitrusWatch, visit us -

Website: [citrusaustralia.com.au/citruswatch/](http://citrusaustralia.com.au/citruswatch/)

Instagram: @citruswatchprogram

Youtube: @CitrusWatch



Citrus Watch are helping create a stronger, more prepared citrus industry and a more informed community.



## Institute Pioneers - Alex Caughey

When the original Insectarium of Victoria opened to the public in 1992, it began the process of acquiring a specimen of the Giant Tasmanian Freshwater Crayfish species *Astacoposis gouldi* from Tasmania for public exhibition and research.

Alex answered the call when the time came to construct an aquarium of considerable proportions in order to house the animal. Using a special new technique of molded fiberglass panels with specific textures

that would mimic the natural habitat of these amazing inver-

tebrates, Alex gave up his time and expertise towards the project.

A testimony to Alex's design was the fact that the Insectarium of Victoria became the first institution in the world to successfully breed these endangered animals in captivity.

Thank you Alex.



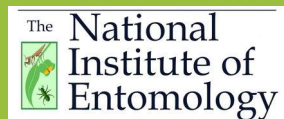
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## Members Committee Positions Now Open

The National Institute of Entomology is currently looking 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.

Members should contact the Institute on 03 7038 9452 if interested.

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 DOWNLOAD PAGE](#)

