

Victorian Entomologist



Entomological Society
of Victoria

Vol. 49 No. 1

February 2019

Print Post publication number 100018680

Price: \$4



THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA (Inc)

MEMBERSHIP

Any person with an interest in entomology shall be eligible for Ordinary membership. Members of the Society include professional, amateur and student entomologists, all of whom receive the Society's News Bulletin, the Victorian Entomologist.

OBJECTIVES

The aims of the Society are:

- (a) to stimulate the scientific study and discussion of all aspects of entomology,
- (b) to gather, disseminate and record knowledge of all identifiable Australian insect species,
- (c) to compile a comprehensive list of all Victorian insect species,
- (d) to bring together in a congenial but scientific atmosphere all persons interested in entomology.

MEETINGS

The Society's meetings are held at the Activity Room Ground Floor, Museum Victoria, Carlton Gardens, Melway reference Map 43 K5 at 7:45 p.m. on the third Tuesday of even months, with the exception of the December meeting which is held earlier in the month. Lectures by guest speakers or members are a feature of many meetings at which there is ample opportunity for informal discussion between members with similar interests. Forums are also conducted by members on their own particular interest so that others may participate in discussions.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Ordinary Member	\$35	
Overseas Member with printed bulletin		\$65
Country Member	\$31 (Over 100 km from GPO Melbourne)	
Student Member	\$23	
Electronic (only)	\$20	
Associate Member	\$ 7 (No News Bulletin)	
Institution	\$40(overseas Institutions \$80)	

Associate Members, resident at the same address as, and being immediate relatives of an ordinary Member, do not automatically receive the Society's publications but in all other respects rank as ordinary Members.

LIFE MEMBERS: P. Carwardine, D. Dobrosak, I. Endersby, R. Field, T. New, K. Walker.

Cover and logo design by Ray Besserdin 2017

Cover photo: *Neorrhina punctatum* the Punctate Flower Chafer on *Callistemon sieberi* River Bottlebrush photographed along Jackson's Creek in revegetated area of Organ Pipes National Park 1 December 2018. Photographed by Daniel Kurek.

**Notes from the Entomological Society of Victoria end of year event
1 December 2018 at Organ Pipes National Park**

On 1 December 2018, EntSocVic presented Bugs in the Organ Pipes and spent the day exploring this fascinating area and sharing their discoveries of invertebrate fauna with members of the general public. This was approximately 46 years after the beginning of re-vegetation efforts by Parks staff and Friends group volunteers. Peter Carwardine remembers an earlier visit by the society when the area was dominated by artichoke thistle.

In the 1970s the outstanding basalt formations known as the Organ Pipes, Rosette Stone and Tessellated Pavement led geologists to seek protection of these formations. "Attempts at agriculture on this marginal land had caused the loss of indigenous vegetation and animals, which were replaced with weeds such as Boxthorn and Artichoke Thistle along with Rabbits." The land around was totally covered in weeds and farm rubbish and was suffering severe gully erosion. It was called a National Park in 1972. A short time after this the Friends group was formed, originally called the Maribyrnong Valley Committee. It is believed to be the "first ever (environmental) friends group in Australia and perhaps the world".



Peter Carwardine, Linda Rogan, Jason Cochrane, Julia McCoe, Ian Endersby and Geoff Hogg Members of EntSocVic greet members of the public at the picnic shelter. Photo Carol Page.



Peter Carwardine leads the group on an insect safari near the base of the Organ Pipes. Photo Julia McCoe.



Members of EntSocVic and the passing public entranced by a sample of aquatic invertebrates assisted by Ian Endersby. Photo Viv Curle.

On this December day, north winds brought humid 31 degree weather as 17 eager participants from the general public arrived to see and hear what EntSocVic members would find.

The shade at the visitor centre provided a convivial venue for visitors to gather and hear an introductory talk about insects. Then the group was divided in two for insect exploration.

Guides, Peter Marriott, Peter Carwardine and Julia McCoey were assisted by several other members of EntSocVic; a few more members joined the groups in the latter part of the afternoon.

The interest of participants may be judged by the fact that many stayed well beyond the advertised finish time of 4.00 pm and commented they had learned a lot.

Toward evening there was time for members and guests to relax together and enjoy their BYO evening meal. All comforts of



Andy Arnold, young Ben Curle and others led by PeterCarwardine inspect some riverside insects. Photo Steve Curle.

the Visitor Centre were made available, thanks to Friends of Organ Pipes National Park's Treasurer Robert Irvine.

This get-together provided a perfect opportunity to officially recognise the many contributions of Daniel Dobrosak, long-time Council member and Editor of *Victorian Entomologist* until 2011 and Life Member since 2012.

The buzz of conversation about the finds of the day and other matters entomological continued while the official 'moth-ers' for the evening found a suitable spot for a light sheet not far from the toilet block.

Loud calls of newly emerging cicadas all around the visitor centre set the mood for the evening's events and gave members further photo opportunities.

The availability of a data projector enabled us to hear two presentations.



Peter Marriott congratulates Life Member Daniel Dobrosak. Photo Steve Curle.



One of many cicadas that emerged to serenade us in the evening. They are likely to be *Yoyetta* species. Photo Steve Curle.

FRIENDS OF ORGAN PIPES (FOOPS) Forty-six years of contributions

Robert Irvine, Treasurer FOOPS

While showing a looping slide show of Park highlights he explained that FOOPS are involved in Melbourne Water testing via Waterwatch. They are also involved in Platypus trapping and counting, Microbat research, Bird species recording, plant species recording, restoring native grasses and Sugar Glider monitoring. In addition, they provide guided walks for School groups and work with Melbourne University Master students in Environmental management. Friends have maintained an historic record via photos documenting the area since 1972.

Robert noted that at the peak of park staffing there was a Ranger with wife & daughter living in the house at the park and there were twelve staff who operated out of the Visitor Centre. Today there are no staff members based at the park and there is an automatic timed gate at the entrance. There is no assistance to volunteers when they work.

As of 2018 the Friends group is shrinking and the average age of Friends is about 60 years. The large numbers of kangaroos and wallabies

create huge grazing pressure on plants. Shrubs and trees are in second or third generation with massive die off which may be due to overplanting, inappropriate planting locations or densities of plantings. Issues arise because of lack of regular burning which is necessary but red tape and safety issues restrict this.

After a brief break Peter Marriott amused and informed us with photos and stories of moths, what their caterpillars eat and what eats them entitled:

LEPIDOPTERA FOODIES.

Key to photo credits Peter Marriott (PM), Marilyn Hewish (MH), Steve Williams (SW)



Speaker Robert Irvine, treasurer of Friends of Organ Pipes. Photo Linda Rogan.



Circopetes obtusata Adult: Angusvale - 26 November, 2014 (PM) Caterpillar: Eppalock - 17 April, 2011 (SW).

We are all familiar with the leaf eaters. The widespread Grey Twisted-moth (*Circopetes obtusata*) caterpillars feed on eucalypt leaves.



Aenetus eximia Adult: Mitchell River NP - 28 November, 2014 (PM)
 Caterpillar: Wonga Park - 20 November, 2005 (PM).

Less familiar though, are the wood borers. We may note the holes in the trees or the webbing around the entrance. Hepialids such as the bright green Splendid Ghost Moth *Aenetus eximia* are common in the state's forests and woodlands. *Aenetus* larvae such as the one above can be found feeding in Acacia stems and other hepialids may feed on the roots. While the adults only live a day or two, larvae may live one, two or more years.



Scats: Raymond Island - 14 February, 2007 (PM).



Oxythecta zonoteles adult: Wye River - 31 October, 2018 (PM).

Koala scats are a familiar sight beneath the trees where the animals are plentiful. A number of different oecophorid moths utilise the scats of koalas and other plant-eating animals as food. Several genera and species such as *Oxythecta zonoteles* have been raised from the scats, some larvae feeding and pupating within the same scat.



Plodia interpunctella



Rice Moth adult: Benteleigh - 7 December, 2012 (PM)
Larva and cocoon: Benteleigh - 16 April, 2012 (PM).

Plodia interpunctella (Rice Moth) is an introduced pest of stored grains and may be found in kitchen cupboards where the caterpillars have been feeding on uncooked rice or porridge. Once discovered in our kitchen we have meticulously sealed all tempting food in glass containers and I see them no more!



Monopis ethelella Adults and larvae: Lismore (Vic) - 12 October, 2012 (PM).

In a shearing shed in Lismore (Vic) *Monopis ethelella* (previous page) was flying around a pile of discarded, dirtied wool. More detailed investigation revealed the larvae living in cases and feeding on the soiled wool. Other tineid moths have been accidentally introduced including those that feed on damp carpet or stored clothes. Others in the family feed on feathers and even bat guano.



Mataeomera dubia adult: Bentleigh - 23 December, 2003 with aphid larvae (PM).



The caterpillars of *Mataeomera dubia* are known to be predatory on scale and aphid larvae.

Peter finished his photos showing some consumers of moths or their larva from *Cordyceps* fungi to spiders, maggots, mites, geckos, and lacewings and a hungry Tawny Frogmouth.

The photo of the gecko devouring the moth was taken by Russell Best at Ned's Corner on one of his last mothing trips.



The wind died down after dark and the light sheet attracted a range of insects that can be seen on NatureShare.

The warm conditions brought out a wide range of insects including numerous beetles and small flies.

Additional photos of invertebrates found on the day follow:



Campion australasiae devouring a green lacewing .
Photo Frank Pierce.



Teleogryllus commodus
Black Field Cricket
Photo Daniel Kurek.



Anoplognathus velutinus
Photo Daniel Kurek.



Peter Carwardine was delighted to find a large horehound plant as he was able to locate these adult horehound bugs *Agonoscelis rutila*. A quick search revealed that these are native bugs although often found on weedy horehound. Unfortunately they are not effective in controlling this introduced weed.
Photo by Steve Curle.



Another bug located in both nymph (photo left by Carol Page) and adult (photo right by Julia McCoey) stages is *Choerocoris paganus* sometimes referred to as the dodonaea bug as it is often found around the shrub of the same name. This bug feeds primarily on the seeds of *Dodonaea* species.



Lamprima species Photo Carol Page.



Wingless female wasp
Photo Julia McCoey.



Common Flatwing *Austroargiolestes icteromelas*
Photo Carol Page.

More photos from this excursion can be found on
NatureShare
[https://natureshare.org.au/
collections/5c032102a966336af20000c6](https://natureshare.org.au/collections/5c032102a966336af20000c6)

Thanks to all members of the Entomological Society of
Victoria who helped and participated.

Thanks are also due to Robert Irvine, Treasurer of the
Friends of Organ Pipes (FOOPS) for Information about the Park in these notes and also for
facilitating the use of the visitor centre on the day.

Peter Muller had prepared himself to be a guide for participants at the Bugs in the Organ Pipes event held 1 December 2018. Last minute complications meant he was unable to attend on the day but he kindly prepared some notes and photos about the ants he had observed on 27 November 2018 some of which are presented below.

Some Ants observed at Organ Pipes National Park 27/11/2018
Peter Muller

“Bull Ants”



Myrmecia pyriformis photographed at the Organ Pipes 27 November 2018.



Entrance to nest with large cleared area for *Myrmecia pilosula* also known as the “jack-jumper ant” eastern race.
Photographed at the Organ Pipes 27 November 2018.

“Sugar ants”



Camponotus consobrinus mound entrance at Organ Pipes. Inset photographed elsewhere but Peter has found this species to be identical everywhere.

Also observed but not photographed at Organ Pipes were 'sugar ants' *Camponotus suffusus* and *Camponotus nigriceps* the black headed *Camponotus* and 'meat ants' *Iridomyrmex purpureus*.

Peter Muller
Ants Are Everywhere
0422 495 675

**Minutes of the Entomological Society of Victoria Council Meeting
Tuesday 15 January 2019 Melbourne Museum**

Attendance: Ray Besserdin, Joshua Grubb, Peter Marriott, Linda Rogan, Peter Carwardine, Julia McCoe, Martin Lagerwey, Sharon Mason

Apologies: Maik Fiedel

Previous Minutes: Minutes of EntSocVic Council 20 November 2018 as printed in VE 48 no.6 p. 127.

M: Peter Marriott

S: Linda Rogan

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's report for July-November 2018 is below:

Membership:

Total non-institutional: 145

Unfinancial: 17 remained unfinancial and are removed from the mailing list.

Institutions: 10

The term deposit is due to mature in 18 May 2019.

Account Balances for July:

General: \$3007

Le Souéf: \$8004

Publishing: \$24098

Account Balances for August:

General: \$2775

Le Souéf: \$8004

Publishing: \$20648

Account Balances for September:

General: \$2775

Le Souéf: \$8004

Publishing: \$20846

Account Balances for October:

General: \$1964

Le Souéf: \$8086

Publishing: \$21049

Account Balances for November:

General: \$1999

Le Souéf: \$8086

Publishing: \$21399

M: Joshua Grubb

S: Julia McCoe

New members: Francesco Martoni, from Bundoora with interests in Psyllids, stick insects, any insect really.

M: Joshua Grubb

S: Linda Rogan

Current process for accepting new members:

Treasurer sends out emails to Council members requesting they be moved and seconded. Josh notifies Linda when they have been seconded and she will send out the welcoming emails. These new members' names will be minuted in the following Council meeting minutes.

The number of printed copies of the Bulletin will be the number needed to be posted plus 10. Josh will notify the editor prior to each issue.

Editor's report:

We have a couple of new members and younger enthusiasts preparing observations for the Bulletin but they are unlikely to be ready for February.

I strongly encourage members to contribute articles and observations to add to the interest and diversity of the *Victorian Entomologist*. In particular, each Council member is requested to prepare something brief that can be utilised in the Bulletin as space allows over 2019.

Ray to bring in old issues of the bulletin (beyond 5 years) to the members' meetings for anyone interested to take home.

Thanks to all who have already contributed and who continue to do so regularly.

General Business:

Future meetings: See back cover of the Bulletin for the 2019 schedule.

Communication with members:

It is suggested that the following information be included in the email to members that will be sent out prior to the February meeting

Members are reminded that we require additional regular Council members and are will require a new President, Vice-president and Secretary for 2019.

In order to keep our present website alive, we require a new webmaster. Please contact any of the committee members if you believe you could fill this role.

We encourage members to suggest speakers they would like to hear and places for excursions that they would be of interest.

Particularly ideas for the 2019 winter excursion (usually indoors), the end of year excursion (usually in association with a Friends group) are sought.

Julia will write a note mobilising members to record observations of mantids for the month of March.

Officers and council for 2019: Additional Council members President, Vice President and Secretary are required. Nomination forms will be available at the February meeting.

Twitter account: Josh to create a twitter account and coordinate with Julia to set up cross posting.

Organ Pipes excursion 1 December: This successful outing is reported in the February Bulletin. Many thanks to all members who assisted.

Goodwill wine: Council votes to continue with Goodwill for a year and then reassess. It is disappointing that the club logo is no longer included on the label.

New webmaster: Julia to ask Steve about access to update the website as a short term measure. In order to keep our present website alive, we require a new webmaster. Please contact any of the committee members if you believe you could fill this role.

New nametags for members with new logo? Ray Besserdin to follow this up.

EBSCO Contract was discussed and several points need to be clarified or changed before signing. All members were in favour of proceeding after the changes are made.

Meeting closed.

Observations from the field

The following observations come from 16 year old Indra Bone, a field naturalist from near Ballarat. These are the first observations sent by Indra to the *Victorian Entomologist*. I encourage him to continue his observations and hope to hear more from him in the future.

Editor

Ballarat *Lasioglossum* Native Bees

I live on a 39 acre 'Land for Wildlife' bush property adjoining the Enfield forest in the Napoleons-Enfield area of Central Victoria. Recently inspired by a presentation on native bees at our local Field Naturalists Club in Ballarat and field trip with Linda Rogan, I have recorded some observations of native bees on our property.

I spend a lot of time birding and insect hunting around the property and it was on one of these hunts that I discovered that the several hundred holes which I previously assumed were made by ants, were actually being visited by small black bees.

This year, in October, I observed similar bees feeding from a variety of native plants such as sundews, eucalypts and species of bush pea. I have also observed them on seaside daisies, buddleia and alyssum. Photographs of these bees were sent to Ken Walker at Melbourne Museum who identified these as a *Lasioglossum* (*Chilalictus*) sp.

The *Lasioglossum* bees on our property have been observed year-round but the small black bees were observed to be active around the holes from December until February in 2017-2018 but have not emerged in 2018-2019 summer as of 22 January 2019.

Indra Bone



Right above: *Lasioglossum* (*Chilalictus*) sp. on *Drosera* bloom. Right below: *Lasioglossum* *Chilalictus* sp. caught on the sticky *Drosera* hairs.

Above: *Lasioglossum* *Chilalictus* sp. arrow-showing the T5 cleft typical of *Lasioglossum* females.

Photos by Ambika Bone in early October 2018 in sunny conditions.

Beachside observations from a birdo

Some interesting observations were sent to the Editor from Elizabeth Simkus. At Binns Beach near Bemm River Victoria, in October 2018 she had witnessed “millions of flying ants washed up on the beach.” On a later visit to Binns Beach on 10/12/18 she saw dozens of cicadas washed up along the tide line. Just two of them still showed signs of life. She included photos of the cicadas which are combined below.

Prof. David Emery of The University of Sydney was kind enough to confirm the identity as Masked Devils *Cyclochila australasiae* which had a huge emergence around Bairnsdale this year. When the NW wind blows, they get blown out to sea to drown to be returned by the tide and southerly wind.

It is interesting to note from <http://dr-pop.net/australasiae-048.htm> that the colour variations of this species have led to a range of common names: Green Grocer, Yellow Monday, this orange and black form Masked Devil, Chocolate Soldier and a rare blue form Blue Moon; in addition intermediate varieties may occur. The species ranges along the coast from southern Queensland to around Melbourne in Victoria.



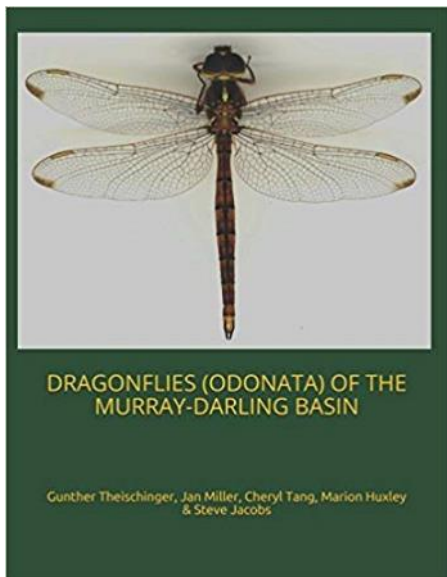
Cyclochila australasiae Two of Elizabeth's photos combined to show both sides.

David also mentioned that his daughter had alerted him to the emergence of *Yoyetta abdominalis* at Seville.

Thanks to Elizabeth for her sighting although she states “I have been a member of the local birdwatching club here for 20-odd years and I feel it is a bit of a conflict of interest. Ha, ha. If I notice a lerp I think of Bell Miners..”

And to David for his further information.

Editor



Book Review

Dragonflies (Odonata) of the Murray-Darling Basin

Gunther Theischinger, Jan Miller, Cheryl Tang,
Marion Huxley & Steve Jacobs.
406 pp. 2018

Available from: https://www.amazon.com/dp/1981009302?ref=pe_870760_150889320
or Kindle: https://www.amazon.com.au/dp/B07CK4NY5X/ref=sr_1_sc_1?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1524270243&sr=1-1-spell&keywords=dragonflies+of+the+murray

This book describes the Dragonfly component of the Murray Darling Basin Authority's Sustainable Rivers Audit, a federally funded survey which ran from 2004 to 2012. When nine erroneous species from the literature were removed, and 17 species added from new information, the Basin's total became 103, about one-third of Australia's total. Twenty-three pages are devoted to documenting these amendments and updating the checklist to the most recent taxonomic literature.

Illustrated keys are given for the identification of both adults and larvae. They are the keys from Theischinger & Endersby (2014) which have been modified by the removal of species which are not known from the Basin. The sampling was for aquatic larvae, not all of which can yet be identified to species. So, in the species accounts, it has been necessary to lump indistinguishable taxa; the keys do not recognise this problem. A table shows the distribution of each species within the standard drainage divisions and also by State; then follows some discussion on distribution patterns.

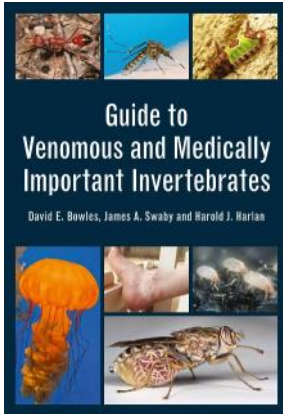
The bulk of the book is titled 'Species Parade' and it consists of a standardised portrayal of each species, or species group if larvae cannot be separated. The order is that of the checklist for families, thereafter alphabetical, but there is a comprehensive table of contents which serves as an index. The accounts include an introduction mainly about distribution, a map (unaltered from that of Theischinger & Endersby (2014)) showing distribution throughout Australia, another map showing specimen records from the Murray-Darling Basin, a description and sometimes a photo of habitat, water quality range, a graph of altitude, and coloured photos of adult male and female and sometimes larvae, from live specimens wherever possible. Four species – *Hemiphysalia mirabilis*, *Caliagrion billinghami*, *Austropetalia tonyana*, *Petalura gigantea* – have climate change scenarios, with maps showing the possible distribution in two differing futures: one with some mitigating strategies, the other with little curbing of emissions. The layout is a strange mixture of map and photo sizes apparently driven by the number of photos which had to be accommodated.

If you can handle Kindle buy a copy even if it's just for the excellent photographs of adults. If your interest in dragonflies, particular their distribution, is a little deeper, then you should consider getting a copy, too. This publication records the results of a nine year survey, augmented by an extensive literature review and much personal knowledge. It's not often you get that combination nowadays. A quick scan of the Acknowledgements shows how widely the net was cast.

Ian Endersby

Reference

Theischinger, G. & Endersby, I. (2014). *Identification Guide to the Australian Odonata*. Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW: Sydney.



Guide to venomous and medically important invertebrates

David Bowles, James Swaby, Harold Harlan

Paperback November 2018 \$ 59.99

ISBN: 9781486308842 240 pages 215 x 148 mm

Publisher: CSIRO Publishing

Colour illustrations, Colour photographs, Maps included

This is a fascinating book written by three American entomologists who have had incredibly diverse careers. Their experience has taken them to many countries around the world and they have worked in a myriad of roles such as US army medical entomologist, plague surveillance program and armed forces pest management board.

Upon reading this book your first reaction could be to stay home with the door locked. The variety and number of invertebrates in the world that can bite, sting, puncture, suck, infect, infest and even kill people is impressively large. As a collection manager for terrestrial invertebrates at Melbourne Museum I spend a lot of time dealing with people who contact the museum with either images or specimens they believe are a threat to them or their family. Happily, Melbourne is free of the majority of the world's worst invertebrate spread diseases but often peoples' first reaction to invertebrates is fear (pretty things like butterflies excepted). Maybe the fear stems from our inability to keep them out of our homes, the idea of having something infest the body, cultural conditioning or something else. For the rare positive portrayal of spiders in films like *Charlotte's Web*, there are dozens of films and books dedicated to scary spiders, killer bees or 'slimy, gross' bugs in general.

The reality is that invertebrates are amazing in diversity and adaptation. One can only marvel at the amazing methods of defence that many invertebrates have devised and that are covered in this book. From caterpillars that can cause urtication, to sea cucumbers capable of eviscerating their intestines, to the *Paederus* genus of beetles whose "haemolymph contains a toxin purported to be 12 times more toxic than cobra venom" to the incredibly efficient nest defence by social insects such as bees, ants and wasps.

Not to mention the ingenious methods devised by those invertebrates that want to use us as a food source. The use of anticoagulants to ensure blood flow by leeches (try to avoid the Amazon leech which can exceed 45 cm in length). The application of anaesthetics by some tick species. The chapters relating to insects such as bed bugs and any unfortunate traveller who becomes a host for bot flies make for fascinating and uncomfortable reading. The South American bot fly lays its egg on a vector such as a tick or mosquito and when these invertebrates feed on people, the bot fly eggs hatch and the maggots burrow into the human host.

The great news is that the vast majority of invertebrates have no interest in people and will do their best to avoid us. They are too busy doing all the amazing things they do and helping to keep the whole food web ticking over. For those people who don't like invertebrates or reach for the spray, maybe consider that invertebrates may be the food for their favourite bird or mammal or help to pollinate the food crops they rely on or the flowers they love.

Given that in Australia you are far more likely to die from drowning or on the roads than from contact with an invertebrate, the fear level is often out of step with reality. The number of invertebrate species that can pose a threat to people is also a by-product of their phenomenal global diversity. The number of described invertebrate species is in excess of 1 million (and likely to be much higher). Invertebrates make up well over 90% of all life on earth so even a tiny percentage of that figure will yield significant numbers of species.

For the times that we inadvertently make contact with them and they feel threatened enough to react defensively or for those invertebrates that want to feed on us this book is a great guide. It covers a range of chemical defences people can use but also has great low cost tips such as the wearing of duct tape around pants to try and trap ticks as they make their way up your legs heading for your groin, head, back etc. When it comes to preventing the attachment of ticks who cares if people laugh at you with your taped legs. This publication recommends the use of forceps to remove attached ticks. While not being an expert in tick removal I know a few different methods in addition to removal by forceps are being used in Australia. Firstly the use of a freezing technique that quickly kills the tick and secondly the use of what are called tick twist-ers, plastic products that you can place under the tick and lever it out. Interestingly, in some parts of the world, including Australia some people have developed an allergy to meat products following tick bites. Another very good reason to minimise or where possible avoid tick bites.

This book isn't just a list of all the things which may cause you problems. It is also a very thorough checklist of what to do and what not to do when travelling whether that is overseas or even in your local area. The advice is especially relevant when visiting areas where serious diseases such as malaria, yellow fever and typhus are still prevalent. Prevention is always better than the cure. Knowing about the risk of sleeping on the ground in some parts of Africa or swimming in Australian waters at certain times of the year can prevent an encounter with the tumbu fly or the bluebottle jellyfish.

As someone who works with collections of terrestrial insects and arachnids, I found the information in this book provided on the marine invertebrates fascinating. My favourite species from this book is the mantis shrimp or "thumb splitter". Any invertebrate that can punch out the glass in an aquarium with thrusts from its claws is worth knowing about.

This publication deals with debunking some of the urban myths around self-protection from invertebrates. I can't tell if the authors are playing a straight bat or being gently humorous. When examining the wearing of flea collars by humans, drinking of vinegar to repel mosquitoes or eating match heads to keep chiggers and ticks away you could be forgiven in thinking they are joking. Not surprisingly the consumption of large amounts of vinegar is not good for you, nor the wearing of flea collars against bare skin. Again, this book helpfully points out that the consumption of large amounts of match heads is far from good for you. I was sure that this was not a widespread belief, but sure enough, an internet search finds plenty of sites on this subject.

Another humorous inclusion in this book is the use of the Schmidt pain index, a ranking of numerous self-inflicted Hymenopteran stings by an intrepid (or masochistic) entomologist in the US. So at least if you are stung by something like a bullant from Australia you can know that you have survived a number two on the pain index, where four is the maximum. Avoid the so-called bullet ant of South America which tops the chart.

This book is going to be of great assistance to me. While I haven't travelled to Africa or South America we get requests to identify invertebrates from Australians who have travelled to these parts of the world and may have been infested by a bot fly or tumbu fly. It will be of use to Australians planning to travel around the world but also to experience their own forests, beaches, seas and even backyards. In terms of Australia the one thing to be aware of and the only clear error that I noticed is on page 50 where a species of *Missulena* or Mouse Spider has been captioned as the Sydney Funnel-web, *Atrax robustus*.

The book has extensive appendices that cover subjects such as the use of various chemical treatments and their advantages and disadvantages. As the authors are American note that the regulations they refer to are American regulations and may vary from country to country. It also has a useful appendix on vector-borne diseases, their vectors, distribution, symptoms and vaccines.

Happy travelling. Simon Hinkley

Snapshot of a tangle-vein fly Nemestrinidae: *Trichophthalma*

Linda Rogan editor @entsocvic.org.au

When I watched this fly approach and land with its wings outspread, I thought it was a sort of bee fly with a rather pointed abdomen. When I posted my photo (below) on BowerBird, Tony D. Informed me that this is one of the tangle-vein flies in the *Trichophthalma* genus. Atlas of Living Australia shows this genus is in the subfamily Nemestrinae.

In many insects the male genitalia are most indicative when determining sub genus and species but in this family the female is of greater interest.

Erica McAlister in her book *The secret life of flies* says that in this subfamily the females have “telescope-shaped ovipositors that have retractile segments forming a pump-action, egg-laying machine.” also “the female scatters several thousand eggs in a lifetime” and the “very active larvae” readily disperse, sometimes helped by the wind until they locate their hosts which in this subfamily include grasshoppers. Their attrition rate, while seeking these very active hosts, is extremely high.

This fly, like many others, is both a pollinator and a predator.



Trichophthalma sp. Karingal Creek, Eltham North Victoria 27 December 2018 with enlarged tip of abdomen. Photo Linda Rogan

Notice of the Annual General Meeting 2019

The Annual General Meeting of the Entomological Society of Victoria Inc. will be held on Tuesday 16 April 2019 at 7:45 pm at Museum Victoria.

Nominations are invited for the positions of President, Vice President, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, Editor, and up to eight other Councilors.

A member is eligible to be elected or appointed as a Council member if the member is 18 years or over, and is entitled to vote at a general meeting.

Nomination form will be available on request at the February meeting or via secretary@entsocvic.org.au

The signed form should be in the hands of the Secretary 7 days prior to the AGM.

OFFICE BEARERS

PRESIDENT: Peter Marriott 8 Adam Street, Bentleigh, 3204 ph. 9557 7756

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COUNCILLORS: Ray Besserdin, Steve Curle, Maik Fiedel, Julia McCoe.

Thanks to Ray Besserdin, Carol Page and Ian Endersby for assistance in producing the *Victorian Entomologist*.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE VICTORIAN ENTOMOLOGIST

The Society welcomes contributions of articles, papers or notes pertaining to any aspect of entomology for publication in this Bulletin. Contributions are not restricted to members but are invited from all who have an interest. Material submitted should be responsible and original. The Editor reserves the right to have articles refereed. Statements and opinions expressed are the responsibility of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Society.

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Contributions may *preferably* be E-mailed to Internet address: editor@entsocvic.org.au or posted to the Hon. editor in **Microsoft Word for Windows** with an enclosed hard copy. Tables should fit an A5 page with 1 cm borders i.e. 12.5cm width x 18cm height as a maximum size and complex tables should be in .pdf format. Preference will be given to articles with 5 or fewer pages of solid text and articles longer than this will be returned to the author for reconsideration. The main text of the news bulletin is prepared in 9 pt font Source Sans Pro (please do not use fixed point paragraph spacing). The deadline for each issue is the third Friday of each odd month.

Contributors to *Victorian Entomologist* should note that the Bulletin is listed on the EBSCO database.

ADVERTISING

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The *Victorian Entomologist* is printed at ImpactDigital

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DIARY OF COMING EVENTS

Next Meeting Presentations by Post Grad students

19 February 2019

Note 7:45 pm start

General Meetings:

Month	Date	Planned event
April	16	AGM and special speaker: Ross Field <i>It will take more than a wall to stop these immigrants! Monarch migration in North America.</i>
June	18	Member's Presentations night
August	20	TBA
October	15	TBA

End of year event in late November or early December to be announced.

Council Meetings are held at the Museum Victoria at **5:00 pm**
on the following Tuesdays in 2019
19 March, 21 May, 16 July,
17 September and 19 November



The Society's Home Page on the World Wide Web is located at:

www.entsocvic.org.au

Also find us on facebook.



Scientific names contained in this document are *not* intended for permanent scientific record, and are not published for the purposes of nomenclature within the meaning of the *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature*, Article 8(b). Contributions may be refereed, and authors alone are responsible for the views expressed.