

Indigenous Insects of Southern Ballarat

We acknowledge and pay our respects to the Wadawurrung People – Elders past, present, and emerging; the Traditional Owners of the land on which this diverse selection of 121 native insects (and invertebrates), featured herein, occur. Images are not to scale. Larvae are depicted in a split image for some species. Sizes are approximate body lengths and wingspan (ws) for butterflies/ moths, some damselflies.

Insects (and invertebrates) are often ‘keystone’ species, which means they provide critically important ‘ecosystem services’. Pollination of plants by bees (and butterflies, wasps, etc.) and seed dispersal (e.g. by ants) ensure the reproduction of many flora species and vegetation communities. Other ecosystem services include nutrient recycling (e.g. by earthworms, dung beetles, etc.), cleansing of water (e.g. by freshwater mussels), and pest control (by spiders, lady beetles, etc.). Some insects are ‘ecosystem engineers’, which modify the environment in a way that facilitates habitat structures (e.g. termite nests) for many other fauna. As ‘primary consumers’ (i.e. the link in the food chain that follows the ‘primary producers’ (i.e. plants/algae), insects and their by-products (e.g. honey, honeydew, lerp, galls) sustain the higher ‘trophic’ levels above them. Thus, if insects become scarce, insectivore populations would suffer decline, which in turn threatens larger predators – a chain reaction known as ‘bottom-up’ ecosystem collapse (best conceptualised by imagining a Jenga tower upending upon the removal of a bottom block).

DID YOU KNOW???

- Some **native bees** (many unnamed and/or not identified to species level) have a symbiosis with native flowers whereby only their unique buzz stimulates flowers to open up access to nectar, encouraging pollination. Non-native bees cheat the system by piercing the petals to thief nectar
- Endangered Bogong Moth**, famous for its nocturnal migration to/from the Australian Alps (some covering distances of 965km), sustains many alpine fauna (e.g. critically endangered Mountain Pygmy Possum). Bogongs were a traditional food source for First Nations groups, and are iconic for having a town, mountain, mountain range, and plains, named after them
- Non-native omissions:** Monarch, Cabbage White, Western Honey Bee, Woodlouse Pillbugs (aka ‘Slater Beetle’, a crustacean), earthworms, snails

WHAT CAN I DO???

- Abstain from toxic chemical applications** (e.g. pesticides, herbicides); these are a leading threatening process to insect populations, particularly many vulnerable bees. Allow **biological control** by natural predators
- Retain** valuable microhabitat resources, e.g. logs, rocks, debris, etc.
- Safety warning:** Stings and bites may elicit allergic reaction and may require medical attention
- Record your insect sightings on online citizen science databases** (e.g. iNaturalist, Atlas of Living Australia) to grow the species distribution dataset, used to inform researchers. Smart phone apps free!

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Editor: Joel Ellis

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Yellow Admiral
Vanessa itea
Butterfly, 5cm | (RR#)



Common Brown
Heteronympha merope
Butterfly, 6.5cm | (RR#)



Shouldered Brown
Heteronympha penelope
Butterfly, 6cm | (RR#)



Olane Azure
Ogyris olane
Butterfly 4cm | (PE#)



Varied Dusky-Blue
Canalides hyacinthinus
Butterfly, 3cm | (RR#)



Chequered Blue
Theclinesthes serpentata
Butterfly, 1.8cm | (RR#)



Grapevine Moth
Phalaenoides glycinae
5cm | (JE#)



Australian Magpie Moth
Nyctemera amicus
Mid-sized moth | (RR#)



Black Geometrid
Melanodes anthracitaria
Moth, 4.5cm | (CT)



Labyrinthine Ghost Moth
Abantiades labyrinthicus
13cm | (MC#)



Southern Moon Moth
Dasypodia selenophora
8.5cm | (RR#)



Varied Grey Moth
Hypobapta tachyhalotaria
4.3cm | (MC#)



Ringed Xenica
Geitoneura acantha
Butterfly, 4cm | (RR#)



Klug's Xenica
Geitoneura klugii
Butterfly, 4cm | (RR#)



Meadow Argus
Junonia villida
Butterfly, 4cm | (RR#)



Common Grass-Blue
Zizina otis
Butterfly, 3cm | (RR#)



Long-tailed Pea-Blue
Lampides boeticus
Butterfly, 3cm | (RR#)



Common Imperial Blue
Jalmenus evagoras
Butterfly, 4cm | (RR#)



Showy Geometrid
Nicotera macrocosma
Moth, 4cm | (DA#)



Golden Sun Moth
Synemon plana (3.5cm)
Cr Endangered | (DR#)



Golden Grass Carpet
Anachloris subochraria
Mid-sized moth | (RR#)



Plantain Moth
Scopula rubraria
2cm | (RR#)



Bogong Moth
Agrotis infusa
5cm | (RR#)



Variable Cutworm
Agrotis porphyricollis
Moth, 3cm | (MC#)



Montane Ochre
Trapezites phigalioides
Butterfly, 3cm | (RR#)



Orange Ochre
Trapezites eliena
Small butterfly | (RR#)



Varied Sedge Skipper
Hesperilla donnyssa
Butterfly, 3cm | (RR#)



Imperial Jezebel
Delias harpalyce
Butterfly, 7cm | (RR#)



Red-spotted Jezebel
Delias aganippe
Butterfly, 6.5cm | (RR#)



Caper White
Belenois java
Butterfly, 5.5cm | (RR#)



Bright Twisted Moth
Parepisparis lutosaria
5cm | (MC#)



Pink Arhodia
Arhodia lasiocamparia
Moth, 6.5cm | (MC#)



Pink-bellied Moth
Oenochroma vinaria
5.8cm | (AM#)



Painted Cup Moth
Doratifera oxleyi
3.5cm | (DA#; AM#)



Southern Armyworm
Persectania ewingii
Moth, 4cm | (MC#)



White Rush Moth
Tipanaea patulella
3cm | (RR#)



Barred Skipper
Dispar compacta
Butterfly, 3cm | (RR#)



Green Grass-Dart
Ocybadistes walkei
Small butterfly | (RR#)



Silky Hairstreak
Pseudalmenus chlorinda
Butterfly, 3cm | (RR#)



Dainty Swallowtail
Papilio anactus
Butterfly, 7cm | (RR#)



Mistletoe Moth
Comocrus behri
5.8cm | (RR#)



Willow-herb Day-Moth
Phalaenoides tristifica
Mid-sized moth | (RR#)



Common Gum Emerald
Prasinocyma semicrocea
Mid-sized moth | (MC#)



Autumn Gum Moth
Mnesampela privata
4cm | (RR#)



Emperor Gum Moth
Opodiphthera eucalypti
6.5cm | (DA#; GH#)



Heliotrope Moth
Utethesia pulchelloides
Small moth | (RR#)



Orange-rimmed Satin-Moth (5cm)
Thalaina selenaea | (AM#)



Satin-green Forester
Pollanisus viridipulverulenta
Moth, 1cm | (RR#)

Beetles & Bugs


Beetles & Bugs

Grasshoppers, Katydids & Crickets


Ants, Wasps, Bees & similar

Dragonflies & Damselflies


Assorted Invertebrates




Large Spotted Ladybird
Harmonia conformis
0.8cm | (RR#)




Small Transverse Lady Beetle | (CB#)
Coccinella transversalis




Tasmanian Ladybird
Cleobora mellyi
0.7cm | (RR#)




Variegated Lady Beetle
Hippodamia variegata
0.7cm | (RR#; SG#)




Eucalyptus Snout Beetle
Gonipterus scutellatus
1.3cm | (SG#)




Honeybrown Beetle
Ecnolagria grandis
2cm | (RR#)




Metallic Flea Beetles
Genus *Altica*
Small beetles | (RR#)




Christmas Beetles
Genus *Anoplognathus*
2.5cm | (SG#)




Golden Stag Beetle
Lamprima aurata
3cm | (RR#)




Rhinoceros Beetles
Genus *Dasygnathus*
Mid-sized beetles | (RR#)




Southern Dung Beetle
Onthophagus australis
Mid-sized beetle | (RT#)




Click Beetles
Conoderus tabidus
Small beetle | (RR#)




Common Eucalyptus Longhorn (3cm) | (AA#)
Phoracantha semipunctata




Red and Blue Beetle
Dicranolaius bellulus
8mm | (RR#)




Tricolour Soldier Beetle
Chauliognathus lugubris
2cm | (RR#)




Harlequin Bug (diff ages)
Dindymus versicolor
1cm | (JP#)




Orange Assassin Bug
Gminatus australis
1cm | (RR#)




Eucalyptus Tip-wilter Bug | (RR#)
Amorbus obscuricornis




Long Broad-headed Bug
Mutusca brevicornis
Mid-sized bug | (RR#)




Redeye Cicada
Psaltoda moerens
Bug, 6cm | (RR#)




Red Gum Lerp Psyllid
Glycopsis brimblecombei
Bug, 8mm | (JM#; RR#)




Yellow-winged Locust
Gastrimargus musicus
Grasshopper | (RR#)




Giant Green Slantface
Acrida conica
7cm | (RR#)




Gum-leaf Katydid
Torbia viridissima
Mid-sized katydid | (IB)




Australian Common Garden Katydid (4cm)
Caedicia simplex | (RR#)




Black Field Cricket
Teleogryllus commodus
3cm | (RR#)




Southern Mole Cricket
Gryllotalpa australis
4cm | (AA#)




Black Jumper Ant
Myrmecia pilosula
1cm | (RR#)




Banded Sugar Ant
Camponotus consobrinus
2cm | (AA#)




Blue Ant (M, F)
Diamma bicolor
Wasp, 3cm | (RR#; RR#)




Tyde's Sand Wasp
Podalonia tydei
Wasp | (RR#)




Orchid Dupe Wasp
Lissopimpla excelsa
3.5cm | (RR#)




White-spotted Ichneumonid | (3cm)
Lissopimpla excelsa | (RR#)




Blue Flower Wasp
Austroscolia soror
3cm | (RR#)




Spitfire Sawfly
Perga affinis
8cm | (GH#; AA#)




Blue-banded Bees
Genus *Amegilla*
Small bee | (RR#)




Elegant Hairy-Cellophane Bee | (RR#)
Trichocolletes venustus




Loveable Leioproctus
Leioproctus amabilis
Small bee | (KR#)




Woolly Sweat Bee
Lasioglossum lanarium
5mm | (RR#)




Little's Masked Bee
Hylaeus littleri
Small bee | (RR#)




Bicoloured Reed Bee
Exoneura bicolor
Small bee | (RR#)




Megachile ferox
Megachile ferox
Small bee | (RR#)




Euhesma Bees
Genus *Euhesma*
Small bee | (RR#)




Common Halfband
Melangyna viridiceps
Hoverfly, 1cm | (RR#)




Native Drone Fly
Eristalinus punctulatus
Hoverfly | (RR#)




Tau Emerald
Hemicordulia tau
Dragonfly, 5cm | (RR#)




Australian Emerald
Hemicordulia australiae
Dragonfly | (RR#)




Australian Emperor
Anax papuensis
Dragonfly | (RR#)




Blue-spotted Hawker
Adversaeschna brevistyla
Dragonfly | (CT)




Blue Skimmer
Orthetrum caledonicum
Dragonfly, 4.5cm | (CT)




Wandering Percher
Diplacodes bipunctata
Dragonfly, 3.5cm | (RR#)




Red and Blue Damselfly
Xanthagrion erythroneurum
2.3cm (ws) | (RR#)




Blue Ringtail
Austrolestes annulosus
Damselfly, 3cm (ws) | (RR#)




Wandering Ringtail
Austrolestes leda
Mid-large damselfly | (RR#)




Slender Ringtail
Austrolestes analis
Damselfly, 3cm | (RR#)




Common Flatwing
Austroargiolestes icteromelas
Damselfly, 4.3cm (ws) | (RR#)




Australian Bluetail
Ischnura heterosticta
Damselfly | (RR#)




Green Mantis
Orthodera ministralis
4cm | (RR#)




Purple-winged Mantis
Tenodera australasiae
8cm | (RR#)




Margin-winged Stick-Insect (16cm) | (AM#)
Ctenomorpha marginipennis




Robber Flies
Cerdistus rusticanoides
Family Asilidae | (RR#)




Mayflies
Family Leptophlebiidae
Order Ephemeroptera | (RR#)




Australian Dampwood Termite | 2cm
Porotermes adamsoni | (RR#)




Australian Golden Orbweaver | 2.4cm
Nephila edulis | (RR#)




Tasmanian Football Spider (11cm) | (RR#)
Neosparassus patellatus




Common Peacock Spider | 0.5cm
Maratus pavonis | (MC#)



Forest Scorpion
Cercophonius squama
Arachnid, 5cm | (RR#)



Common Yabby
Cherax destructor
Crustacean, 25cm | (RR#)



Balonne Freshwater Mussel | 3cm
Velesunio ambiguus | (GH#)