

Marine insects collected at Tryon Island. Qd. Nat. 22:140-141.

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MARINE INSECTS COLLECTED AT TRYON ISLAND

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The biology of insects (Hemiptera, Coleoptera and Diptera), springtails (Collembola), mites and a spider known from Australian coral reefs was discussed by Marks (1971). Careful observations by naturalists can add much to our knowledge of them. Collections from the intertidal zone at Tryon Island were

made on 23rd-25th August 1977 by A.B. Cribb, A. Ewart, J. Hembrow and D. Reeves. Low water was at 1051 hrs on 24th and 1158 hrs on 25th.

The species from Tryon I. would find refuge in crevices in the coral where air is trapped when the tide floods, with two exceptions. *Halobates* apparently live entirely on the water surface. The aquatic larvae and pupae of *Clunio* live amongst algae, and at very low tides the adults emerge, mate and lay eggs in the brief hour or two before the incoming tide drowns them.

COLLEMBOLA. Two species (with long and with short antennae) on beach rock, 1000 - 1100 hrs; the latter species on rubble ridge, 1100 - 1200 hrs, N. side of island on 24th. Collembola under coral slabs on reef crest, low tide, on 25th.

HEMIPTERA. One *Halobates* sp. (Gerridae), one *Hermatobates* sp. (Hermatobatidae) and one *Halovelgia* sp. (Veliidae) entangled in alga on the rubble and algae ridge 1100 - 1300 hrs, 25th. The same *Halovelgia* sp. was taken in shallow pools in beach rock and in the rubble crest on 23rd; on the rubble ridge on N. side of island, 1100 - 1200 hrs on 24th; and in open pools among reef rubble on the reef crest at low tide on 25th.

DIPTERA. *Clunio* sp. near *pacifica* (Chironomidae): Males on the rubble ridge, N. side of island 1100 - 1200 hrs on 24th; on open pools among reef rubble on reef crest at low tide on 25th; and males, females and pupal skins entangled in alga on the rubble and algae ridge, 1100 - 1300 hrs on 25th.

COLEOPTERA. One species of Staphylinidae on beach rock, N. side of island 1000 - 1100 hrs on 24th and on rubble and algae ridge 1100 - 1300 hrs on 25th.

ACARI. One mesotigmatic mite on beach rock, N. side of island 1000 - 1100 hrs on 24th and, with another mite (Oribatii), on rubble and algae ridge 1100 - 1300 hrs on 25th. One species of Bdellidae from rubble ridge, N. side of island 1100 - 1200 hrs, collected by A. Ewart, was identified by M.M.H. Wallace, CSIRO Division of Entomology, as *Bdellodes pacifica* Atyeo, a species known only from islands off the Queensland coast: Low I., West Molle I. and Heron I.

REFERENCES

Marks, E.N. (1971). Australian Marine Insects. *Australian Natural History*, 17: 134-138.