

Backyard Species Discovery – Weekly Challenge

Week 2

Discovering cryptogams

The Backyard Species Discovery project is a virtual expedition to continue adding to our knowledge of Australian biodiversity while field work is still difficult due to COVID-19 travel restrictions.

While we can't promise you'll find a new species, you will discover some amazing plants and animals living in your own backyard, learn to identify them with the help of Bush Blitz scientists and contribute valuable data to the Atlas of Living Australia.

Here is your challenge:

Photograph at least two different cryptogams in the next 7 days and upload your images to the Backyard Species Discovery project via iNaturalist. Email us a screen shot of, or links to, your iNaturalist records.

Tips:

- A cryptogam is a plant (in the wide sense of the word) that reproduces by spores and includes (but is not limited to): fungi, lichens, bryophytes, algae and ferns.
- You will find instructions on how to upload your images to the Backyard Species Discovery project at https://bushblitz.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/BackyardSpeciesDiscovery_Factsheet-1_Introduction.pdf
- Take several close-up photos of each cryptogam and combine them into one observation - make sure the photos are in focus.
- Take photos from different angles, including the underside and fruiting bodies if possible.
- Add something to provide scale (like a coin).
- Show or describe what the cryptogam is growing on.

Due date:

Email your entry with your name (or group name) to bushblitz@awe.gov.au by midnight AEST on Wednesday 24 June.

Applications will be judged by a panel and the winning entry will be announced on Friday 26 June, on the Bush Blitz website and social media platforms.