Nanda Country Bush Blitz

True Bugs

(*Heteroptera)*

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Nomenclature and taxonomy used in this report is consistent with:

Australian Faunal Directory (AFD)



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List of contributors

List of contributors to this report.			
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Katrina Menard	***University of Connecticut***	***PhD/ Heteroptera***	***Identification***

Abstract

On this Bush Blitz trip over 30 separate collections were made, yielding over 500 specimens. These represent 107 different Heteroptera species, 24 putatively new, from 13 families. The plant bugs (Miridae), with 67 species, were by far the most diverse group collected. Additionally, 2 undescribed species of Tropiduchidae and one undescribed species of Nemopteridae (spoon-winged lacewing) were collected.

1. Introduction

The hemipteran suborder Heteroptera (True Bugs) is one of the core target taxa for the Bush Blitz program (Cassis and Symonds, 2016) (Cassis and Symonds 2016). Heteroptera is represented in Australia by 2500+ species (Australian Faunal Directory), with over 400 new species described in the past 20 years. Much of the taxonomic impediment pertains to the families Miridae and Tingidae, which are sister-taxa (Cassis and Schuh, 2012) , but new species are also regularly discovered in other groups as well (e.g. Tatarnic, 2022; Tatarnic and Cassis, 2022; Malipatil et al., 2023, 2024; Tatarnic et al., 2024). Many True Bugs are phytophagous, feeding on a broad range of host plants, particularly eudicot angiosperms. We were thus very excited to survey this region because of its high plant diversity. Previous collections in this area almost 30 years ago (Cassis, pers. comm) were highly successful, and recent rainfall in the area – leading to optimal vegetation conditions – suggested that this survey might also be met with high success.

2. Methods

2.1 Site selection

We were fortunate on this trip that many of the woody perennial were in flower and had been long enough for many bugs to develop into adults. Sites were chosen primarily based on the presence of flowering specimens, as well as supplementation from other sites selected using Google Earth, including some accessed by helicopter.

2.2 Survey techniques

As most Heteroptera are herbivorous, they are best collected by targeting their host plants, either by beating or sweeping vegetation. Specimens were also collected by hand, peeling bark, from leaf litter and at light traps. In addition, some specimens were retrieved from dry vertebrate pitfall traps. Specimens were killed by freezing and pinned in the field. Were multiple specimens of a given species were collected, a subset was preserved in 100% ethanol for future DNA sequencing.

2.2.1 Methods used at standard survey sites

Standard survey sites were primarily surveyed via beating and hand collecting, with additional material provided by colleagues targeting other taxa by various means.

2.3 Identifying the collections

Specimens were initially sorted into families, tribes, then morphospecies. In some instances specimens could be rapidly identified to genus or species, whereas others required further investigation and comparison with the literature and the synoptics collections of the WAM. To this end, high resolution photographs of specimens were taken by NT and shared with GC and KM. This allowed for full or partial identifications of many specimens. Final identifications were made by NT through published taxonomic keys (e.g., Malipatil, 1992; Brailovsky and

Monteith, 1996; Brailovsky and Cassis, 1999; Brailovsky, 2007; Weirauch, 2007; Slater *et al.*, 2009; Schuh and Pedraza, 2010; Schuh and Weirauch, 2010; Menard, 2011; Namyatova and Cassis, 2013; Schuh and Schwartz, 2016; Cassis *et al.*, 2017; Konstantinov *et al.*, 2018; Cheng and Cassis, 2019a, 2019b; Malipatil *et al.*, 2020; Malipatil *et al.*, 2024) and comparison to material in the WAM collection.

3. Results and Discussion

Appendix 1 lists all Heteroptera collected during the Bush Blitz (specimens of select non-target taxa, including species of the hemipteran genus *Alleloplasis* and the neuropteran *Chasmoptera* are also listed). Collections made during this Bush Blitz will result in 573 specimens being added to the WA Museum collection.

3.1 Un-named or not formalised taxa

Table 1. Putatively un-named or not formalised taxa

Taxon	Comment
Eupolemus BBKALB-158	There are several species of this genus, and further work is needed to determine if our material matches any known species. This genus is being revised by the UNSW Cassis lab.
Austromirini BBKALB-134	This species resembles the genus *Austromiris*, but more research is required.
Austromirini BBKALB-186	This undescribed ant-mimetic mirid is currently being described by the Cassis lab (new genus and species).
Campylomma BBKALB-85	*Campylomma* currently includes 5 species, but from years of collecting we suspect there may be several more cryptic species, already collected, that need to be described. Further research is required.
Campylomma BBKALB-206	As above.
Leucopheropterini BBKALB-162	This species belongs to the tribe Leucopheropterini but cannot be placed to any described genus or species.
Mirini BBKALB-46	Further work is needed to determine the placement of this mirine bug.
Mirini BBKALB-15	As above
Mirini-BBKALB-70	As above
Mirini BBKALB-122	As above
Myrtophylus BBKALB-36	While this species belongs to the genus *Myrtophylus*, with only a single specimen, it is difficult to determine whether this represents a new species.
Setocoris BBKALB-166	This undescribed species is currently being described by Gerry Cassis.
Eremophilacoris BBKALB-104	*Eremophilacoris* includes a single described species and several remaining to be described. Further study is required.

Sciomenida BBKALB-171	Only one species is described in this genus, and on initial examination our material does not conform in colour pattern. Further study required.
Naranjakotta nr *macfarlanei*` BBKALB-84	*Naranjakotta* was described by Cassis and Symonds (2016). Our material is most similar to *N. macfarlanei* but differs in male genital structure. Further study is required.
Naranjakotta `nr *myrtlephylus*` BBKALB-64	Our material is most similar to *N. myrtlephylus* but differs in male genital structure.
Naranjakotta BBKALB-21	Our material does not appear to conform with any of the 19 described species.
Naranjacotta BBKALB-63	Our material does not appear to conform with any of the 19 described species.
Naranjakotta BBKALB-83	Our material does not appear to conform with any of the 19 described species
Orthotylinae BBKALB-37	Further study is required.
Orthotylinae BBKALB-58	Further study is required.
Orthotylinae BBKALB-90	Further study is required.
Orthotylinae BBKALB-91	Further study is required.
Orthotylinae BBKALB-94	Further study is required.
Orthotylinae BBKALB-96	Further study is required.
Orthotylinae BBKALB-121	Further study is required.
Orthotylinae BBKALB-142	Further study is required.
Orthotylinae BBKALB-178	Further study is required.
Orthotylini BBKALB-142	This plant bug can be placed in the tribe Orthotylini but requires further study.
Phylinae BBKALB-34	This mirid belongs to the subfamily Phylinae. Further study is required.
Phylinae BBKALB-108	Further study is required.
Phylinae BBKALB-163	Further study is required.
Phylinae BBKALB-204	Further study is required.
Rhyparochromidae BBKALB-184	Further study is required.

3.2 Species new to science

In this report, ‘species new to science’ means species that were not recognised by Western science before this Bush Blitz.

Table 2. Species new to science

Species	Comment
Acanthocorini BBKALB-26	This coreid (leaf-footed bug) does not match any of the 3 Australian genera in the tribe Acanthocorini. It is provisionally thought to be a new genus and species.
Austromirini BBKALB-38	This is an undescribed species related to the genus *Austromiris*.

Dicyphini BBKALB-55	This species does not match any known Australian species of dicyphine plant bug and appears to be a new genus and species.
Dicyphini BBKALB-82	As above
Melaleucoides `nr *uncinatae*` BBKALB-78	This undescribed species belongs to the genus *Melaleucoides*, and most closely resembles *M. uncinatae*.
Melaleucoides `nr *verticordiae*` BBKALB-154	This undescribed species belongs to the genus *Melaleucoides*, and most closely resembles *M. verticordiae*.
Melaleucoides BBKALB-71	This undescribed species of *Melaleucoides* does not key out to any of the known species in the genus.
Melaleucoides Group BBKALB-53	This undescribed species of Phylinae belongs to the Melaleucoides Group but does not key out to any of the known genera.
Melaleucoides Group BBKALB-130	As above
Melalleucoides Group BBKALB-161	As above
Melaleucoides Group BBKALB-195	As above
Harpagophylus BBKALB-137	This undescribed phyline belongs to the genus *Harpagophylus* but does not match any of the described species.
Harpemiris BBKALB-87	This orthotyline is in the genus *Harpemiris* but does not key out to any described species.
Leucopheropterini BBKALB-100	This mirid belongs to the tribe Leucopheropterini, which includes several genera and species exhibiting ant mimicry. It does not match any known species.
Monaloniini BBKALB-56	This species is similar to the monalonine genus *Rayieria* but does not conform to any of the described species (revised by Namyatova and Cassis, 2013).
Myrtlemiris BBKALB-181	This species of *Myrtlemiris* differs from the described species (Cheng, Mututantri and Cassis 2012)
Naranjakotta nr *macfarlanei*` BBKALB-84	This species is most similar to *N. macfarlanei* but differs in male genital structure.
Naranjakotta nr *myrtlephylus*` BBKALB-64	This species is most similar to *N. myrtlephylus* but differs in male genital structure.
Naranjakotta BBKALB-21	This species appears to belong to *Naranjakotta*, but does not key out to any of the described species.
Naranjakotta BBKALB-63	As above
Naranjakotta BBKALB-83	As above
Palassocoris group BBKALB-10	This Orthotylini can be placed in the *Palassocoris* group of Orthotylini, but does not match any of the described taxa. .This genus group was described by Chin and Cassis (2018).

Palassocoris BBKALB-209	This species of *Palassocoris* does not match any of the described species within this genus.This genus group was described by Chin and Cassis (2018).
Volkelius BBKALB-203	This species belongs to the genus *Volkelius* but does not correspond to any described species. The genus was revised by Namyatova and Cassis (2016).

3.3 Introduced species

None.

3.4 Threatened species

None.

3.5 Genetic information

No genetic sampling was undertaken. Some specimens were stored in 100% ethanol for possible future DNA analysis.

4. Information on species lists

We have taken a cautious approach to the naming species, as most heteropterans require additional investigation requiring dissection of the male and female genitalia.

5. Information for land managers.

There is insufficient evidence to say whether any species collected are of conservation significance. Our general advice would be that species richness is best conserved through habitat preservation, with plant diversity a good indicator of insect diversity and abundance.

6. Other significant findings

In addition to the 24 putatively new heteropteran species collected, we also collected two undescribed species of the hemipteran genus *Alleloplasis*. *Alleloplasis* is currently represented by 2 described species, yet ongoing research by Olivia Evangelista, Keith Bayless and Nik Tatarnic has uncovered many more – including several collected on previous Bush Blitzes. Further study is needed to determine whether the two species collected on this trip are already included in our revision or represent additional new species. Lastly, a single specimen of the spoonwing lacewing genus *Chasmoptera* was collected on this trip. *Chasmoptera* is endemic to central western WA, and is currently represented by three described species, one of which is presumed extinct. Building on work from previous curators, a molecular study of existing WAM *Chasmoptera* specimens has revealed an additional four cryptic species in the genus. Further study is required to determine whether the newly collected specimen belongs to any of these four cryptic species, or whether it represents yet another new species.

7. Conclusions

While only one of us was able to participate in the field collecting for this survey collecting was highly successful. Although only 13 families were represented in our collections, this yielded 107 heteropteran species, 24 of which are believed to be new, and numerous others also

likely to be new pending further investigation. This reinforces that we are nowhere near cataloguing all of the Heteroptera in Australia, especially with regards to hyperdiverse families such as the Miridae.

Table 3. Summary of families collected.

Family	No. of species
Acanthosomatidae	1
Alydidae	3
Coreidae	2
Geocoridae	2
Lygaeidae	1
Miridae	67
Nabidae	1
Pentatomidae	10
Reduviidae	4
Rhyparochromidae	5
Saldidae	1
Scutelleridae	1
Tingidae	5
*Tropiduchidae	2
*Nemopteridae	1

Acknowledgements

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Appendices

Appendix 1. List of Heteroptera, planthoppers and lacewings recorded during the Nanda Country Bush Blitz

Family	Species	Common name	Species new to science	Threatened species (EPBC Act)	Threatened species (Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016)	Introduced species
True bugs						
Acanthosomatidae	*Eupolemus* BBKALB-158	na	no	no	no	no
Alydidae	*Hamedius incarnatus*	na	no	no	no	no
Alydidae	*Melanacanthus margineguttatus*	na	no	no	no	no
Alydidae	*Melanacanthus scutellaris*	na	no	no	no	no
Coreidae	Acanthocorini BBKALB-26	na	yes	no	no	no
Coreidae	*Mictis profana*	Crusader Bug	no	no	no	no
Geocoridae	*Germalus* BBKALB-75	na	no	no	no	no
Lygaeidae	*Nysius vinitor*	Rutherglen Bug	no	no	no	no
Lygaeidae	*Spilostethus* BBKALB-185	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	*Ausejanus tiramisu*	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	Austromirini BBKALB-134	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	Austromirini BBKALB-186	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	Austromirini BBKALB-38	na	yes	no	no	no
Miridae	*Campylomma* BBKALB-206	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	*Campylomma* BBKALB-85	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	*Campylomma liebknechti*	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	*Coridromius chenopoderis*	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	*Coridromius pilbarensis*	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	*Creontiades dilutus*	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	Dicyphini BBKALB-55	na	yes	no	no	no
Miridae	Dicyphini BBKALB-82	na	yes	no	no	no
Miridae	*Diomocoris* BBKALB-72	na	no	no	no	no

Family	Species	Common name	Species new to science	Threatened species (EPBC Act)	Threatened species (Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016)	Introduced species
Miridae	*Harpagophylus* BBKALB-137	na	yes	no	no	no
Miridae	*Harpemiris* BBKALB-87	na	yes	no	no	no
Miridae	Leucopheropterini BBKALB-100	na	yes	no	no	no
Miridae	Leucopheropterini BBKALB-162	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	*Melaleucaphylus beaufortiae*	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	*Melaleucoides* `nr uncinatae` BBKALB-78	na	yes	no	no	no
Miridae	*Melaleucoides* `nr verticordiae` BBKALB-154	na	yes	no	no	no
Miridae	*Melaleucoides akaina*	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	*Melaleucoides* BBKALB-71	na	yes	no	no	no
Miridae	*Melaleucoides* Group BBKALB-130	na	yes	no	no	no
Miridae	*Melaleucoides* Group BBKALB-195	na	yes	no	no	no
Miridae	*Melaleucoides* Group BBKALB-53	na	yes	no	no	no
Miridae	*Melaleucoides verticordia*	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	*Melaleucoides* Group BBKALB-161	na	yes	no	no	no
Miridae	Mirini BBKALB-46	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	Mirini BBKALB-122	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	Mirini BBKALB-15	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	Mirini-BBKALB-70	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	Monaloniini BBKALB-56	na	yes	no	no	no
Miridae	*Myrtlemiris* BBKALB-181	na	yes	no	no	no
Miridae	*Myrtlemiris russulatus*	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	*Myrtlemiris tesselatus*	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	*Myrtophylus* BBKALB-36	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	*Naranjakotta* `nr macfarlanei` BBKALB-84	na	yes	no	no	no
Miridae	*Naranjakotta* `nr myrtlephyla` BBKALB-64	na	yes	no	no	no
Miridae	*Naranjakotta* BBKALB-21	na	yes	no	no	no

Family	Species	Common name	Species new to science	Threatened species (EPBC Act)	Threatened species (Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016)	Introduced species
Miridae	*Naranjakotta* BBKALB-63	na	yes	no	no	no
Miridae	*Naranjakotta* BBKALB-83	na	yes	no	no	no
Miridae	*Ommatodema leanum*	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	Orthotylinae BBKALB-121	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	Orthotylinae BBKALB-142	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	Orthotylinae BBKALB-178	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	Orthotylinae BBKALB-37	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	Orthotylinae BBKALB-58	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	Orthotylinae BBKALB-90	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	Orthotylinae BBKALB-91	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	Orthotylinae BBKALB-94	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	Orthotylinae BBKALB-96	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	Orthotylini `*Palassocoris* group` BBKALB-10	na	yes	no	no	no
Miridae	Orthotylini BBKALB-142	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	*Palassocoris* BBKALB-209	na	yes	no	no	no
Miridae	Phylinae BBKALB-108	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	Phylinae BBKALB-163	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	Phylinae BBKALB-204	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	Phylinae BBKALB-34	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	*Protemiris conospermi*	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	*Rayieria acaciae*	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	*Rayieria decorata*	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	*Rayieria kennedyi*	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	*Setocoris* BBKALB-166	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	*Spinivesica crenulata*	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	*Taylorilygus apicalis*	na	no	no	no	no

Family	Species	Common name	Species new to science	Threatened species (EPBC Act)	Threatened species (Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016)	Introduced species
Miridae	*Teddus katrinae*	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	*Volkelius* BBKALB-203	na	yes	no	no	no
Miridae	*Wallabicoris lachnostachyos*	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	*Xasmasoma acuminatus*	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	*Xasmasoma chamelaucieaphila*	na	no	no	no	no
Miridae	*Zanessa rubrovariegata*	na	no	no	no	no
Nabidae	*Nabis kinbergii*	na	no	no	no	no
Pentatomidae	*Cermatulus nasalis*	na	no	no	no	no
Pentatomidae	*Eremophilacoris* BBKALB-104	na	no	no	no	no
Pentatomidae	*Everardia picta*	na	no	no	no	no
Pentatomidae	*Kapunda troughtoni*	na	no	no	no	no
Pentatomidae	*Ocirrhoe* BBKALB-43	na	no	no	no	no
Pentatomidae	*Oechalia schellenbergii*	na	no	no	no	no
Pentatomidae	*Oncocoris apicalis*	na	no	no	no	no
Pentatomidae	*Sciomenida* BBKALB-171	na	no	no	no	no
Pentatomidae	*Turrubulana plana*	na	no	no	no	no
Pentatomidae	*Utheria dixoni*	na	no	no	no	no
Reduviidae	*Brachysandalus westraliensis*	na	no	no	no	no
Reduviidae	*Coranus* BBKALB-106	na	no	no	no	no
Reduviidae	*Havinthus rufovarius*	na	no	no	no	no
Reduviidae	*Ischnolestes* BBKALB-98	na	no	no	no	no
Rhyparochromidae	*Dieuches* BBKALB-33	na	no	no	no	no
Rhyparochromidae	*Laryngodus* BBKALB-6	na	no	no	no	no
Rhyparochromidae	Lethaeini BBKALB-183	na	no	no	no	no
Rhyparochromidae	Rhyparochromidae BBKALB-11	na	no	no	no	no
Rhyparochromidae	Rhyparochromidae BBKALB-184	na	no	no	no	no

Family	Species	Common name	Species new to science	Threatened species (EPBC Act)	Threatened species (Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016)	Introduced species
Saldidae	*Saldula* BBKALB-196	na	no	no	no	no
Scutelleridae	*Coleotichus costatus*	na	no	no	no	no
Tingidae	*Diplocysta trilobata*	na	no	no	no	no
Tingidae	*Malandiola* BBKALB-148	na	no	no	no	no
Tingidae	*Nethersia* BBKALB-45	na	no	no	no	no
Tingidae	*Nethersia* BBKALB-99	na	no	no	no	no
Tingidae	*Nethersia* BBKALB-208	na	no	no	no	no
Planthoppers						
Tropiduchidae	*Alleloplasis* BBKALB-164	na	no	no	no	no
Tropiduchidae	*Alleloplasis* BBKALB-165	na	no	no	no	no
Lacewings and allies						
Nemopteridae	*Chasmoptera* BKALB-167	na	yes	no	no	no

na Not available