

Anon. (1934), an overlooked publication on Australian insects, with particular reference to *Agrianome spinicollis* (Macleay, 1827)(Coleoptera: Cerambycidae)

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Abstract: Comments are made on an overlooked publication on Australian insects [Anon. (1934)] with particular reference to *Agrianome spinicollis* (Macleay, 1827)(Coleoptera: Cerambycidae).

Comments

The biology and host plants of the Australian cerambycid beetle *Agrianome spinicollis* (Macleay, 1827) have been dealt with by Hawkeswood (1987, 1992, 2002, 2003) and by Hawkeswood & Dauber (1991) and Hawkeswood *et al.* (1997). The presently known number of larval host plants stands at 28 (Hawkeswood, 2003).

Since these papers were published, I have obtained a very scarce publication, namely Anon. (1934) concerning Australian (Queensland) insects (mostly butterflies and moths) which has been apparently overlooked by entomologists (with the exception of Moulds, 1977). In this publication there are 2 pages devoted to the life cycle of *Agrianome spinicollis*, although no new or previously known host plants are recorded. The larva, pupa and adult are briefly described and are also illustrated in black/white (Plate LXXXIII). However, no references to previous studies on this species are listed.

The information provided noted that the large white grubs (larvae) of *A. spinicollis* tunnel into trees and feed upon the wood and that large oval (exit) holes are often observed on the bark. The species usually attacks dead timber but beetles are occasionally found in living trees feeding upon the green wood (Anon., 1934). As they burrow through the wood, they close up the tunnel behind them with the excreta being pressed into a hard mass with the posterior abdominal segment (Anon., 1934). The eggs are placed upon the bark or wood of the tree; the tiny larvae hatch from the eggs and immediately bore into the wood tissue; even at this stage, the mandibles are hard and strong (Anon., 1934). During September and October the mature larvae cease feeding and a gradual change occurs within their bodies; the larva contracts, the skin becomes loose and the body becomes soft and flabby; the larva becomes a pre-pupa which lasts about 2 weeks (Anon., 1934). The skin then splits along the back of the head and thorax and is gradually worked down the length of the body by a series of convulsive movements and then cast off, revealing a pearly white pupa (Anon., 1934). The pupa rests in its pupal chamber for about 2 months; after the final metamorphosis occurs, the pupal skin is cast off and the adult beetle emerges and remains in the wood for a few days before eating its way out of the tree (Anon., 1934).

This book, although containing details on and illustrations of only a few beetle species, concentrates on Lepidoptera and as such should be consulted as a primary reference source for the biology and host plants of these butterfly and moth families.

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