

FRANKE SCRUB BUG-CATCH

Saturday 12th October, 2013

The BugCatch was held at Franke Scrub, 15 km from Toowoomba, organised in conjunction with Trish Gardiner (Friends of Franke Scrub, Friends of Peacehaven Botanic Park), Chris Lambkin (Queensland Museum (QM)), and Kathy Ebert (School of Biological Sciences, University of Queensland (UQ)), as part of a field trip for the UQ Insect Science and Terrestrial Invertebrate university courses, as well as a QM Backyard Explorer Community Event.



Dr. Federica Turco (QM) explaining bark fogging methods to UQ students. ESQ members, Declan and Greg Leahy, catching dragonflies. Photos K. Ebert.



UQ students, Lixin Soh and Christopher Gaitu help community members to identify and count their specimens. UQ Postgraduate students, Fan Liang and Xin Yang, catching insects at the light sheet. Photos K. Ebert.

Franke Scrub is part of the road reserve, and has a remarkably high biodiversity level with 37 dry rainforest tree species, 18 types of shrub, 14 or more climbers, and a range of

understorey plants all preserved in a relatively complete ecosystem. The area is a rare remnant of what was once one of the most common vegetation types in what is now the City of Toowoomba. It is an example of the endangered regional ecosystem 12.8.21 (Semi-evergreen vine thicket on Cainozoic igneous rock.).

Malaise traps, pitfall traps, and coloured pans were set up beforehand in two sites, one on an edge of Franke Scrub and the other within the Scrub at the base of the gully. Geoff Monteith set up a flight intercept trap, and baited pitfalls on the day. Fede Turco bark sprayed tree trunks and vines. Chris Lambkin, Wes Jenkinson, and Geoff Monteith collaborated to run two light sheets after dark. Sweep netting, beating, and hand searching were used.

14 community members participated in 8 invertebrate collection methods and took comparative samples from the two sites in the Backyard Explorer program. 25 UQ students and 8 ESQ members joined the Backyard Explorer community group at St. Anne's Anglican Church Hall, Highfields to identify and count their comparative samples to Order, and the data was loaded into the Backyard Explorer Collation Tool (results available at <http://goo.gl/M8ASZ>). 654 specimens were collected from the edge site, and 735 specimens from the gully site, within Frankes Scrub, both samples included 15 Orders.

Interesting catches of two genera of mantispid lacewings, four species of Carabidae, Chrysomelidae, a termite nest dwelling dynastine beetle *Cryptodus*, a beautiful scale covered *Leperina* beetle from the Family Trogossitidae, scale insects, and three species of stiletto flies were noted and lists of species collected will be supplied through the Backyard Explorer program to the Friends of Franke Scrub and Friends of Peacehaven Botanic Park.

Christine Lambkin & Kathy Ebert
Bugcatch Coordinators