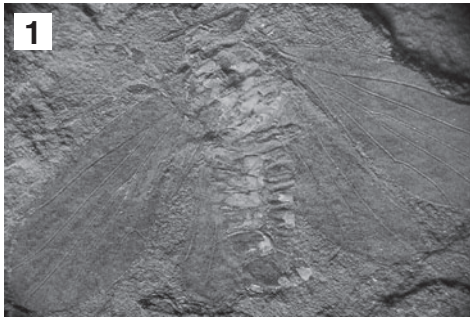


NOTES AND COMMENTS

New insect discoveries at the Upper Jurassic Talbragar fish beds, New South Wales, Australia

Cicada lowei Etheridge & Oliff, 1890 is the only described insect fossil from the Talbragar fish beds. A poorly preserved insect was discovered in 1975, and approximately 60 specimens were collected in 1995 by Steven Avery, 42 of which were donated to the Australian Museum in Sydney. The remaining specimens were passed to me for study, prior to donation to the Museum. A survey of the beds in April and October 2006 yielded another 28 specimens, as well as numerous examples of insect-plant interactions in a form of damages to *Pentoxylon australica*.

The entire entomofauna, as yet undescribed, consists largely of protopsyllids (Fig. 1), with a smaller proportion of beetles (Fig. 2), two specimens provisionally ascribed to Neuroptera, and one tettigonid specimen. The entomofauna is associated with a rich assemblage of early teleost and palaeoniscid fish as well as coniferous plants. Most of the specimens are complete in contrast to those from the Upper Permian locality of Belmont. This prompts further investigation, since the deposition environments of both localities were similar and involved volcanic ash fall.



Figs 1, 2. Newly discovered insects from the Talbragar beds: (1) Protopsyllid, dorso-ventral view; (2) Beetle, dorsal view.

Robert Beattie

Department of Earth and Marine Sciences,
The Australian National University,
Canberra, ACT 0200 Australia
rgbeattie@hotmail.net.au,
Robert.beattie@anu.edu.au