

WILD back yards

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COMMON INSECTS



RHINOCEROS BEETLE *Xylotrupes ulysses*

Identification: Length 40mm. Black. Male (pictured) - forked horns on head and thorax; female lacks horns.
Habitat and range: Forests and suburban gardens.
Notes: Adults often come to lights, or aggregate for mating in poinciana trees where they feed on the soft bark of young shoots. Adults squeak loudly when handled, but are harmless.



GARDEN MANTID *Orthodera ministralis*

Identification: Length 40mm. Wide green thorax with straight sides; full-length wings.
Habitat and range: Often seen in gardens. Common in open forest and rainforest.



RICHMOND BIRDWING *Ornithoptera richmondia*

Identification: Wingspan 110mm. Male (pictured) - wings black and metallic green; abdomen yellow. Female - much larger; wings drably patterned in brown and white, red patch on each side of thorax.
Habitat and range: Previously very common in suburbs. Rainforest. Southeast Qld and northeastern NSW.



Look up more animal identifications in Queensland Museum Wild Guides.

RARE INSECTS



POTTER WASP *Abispa ephippium*

Identification: Length to 30mm. Robust body; mostly orange; large central black patch between forewings.
Habitat and range: Open habitats and gardens.
Notes: Builds a large mud nest with many cells, in sheltered positions.



FIREFLY

Atyphella scintillans
Identification: Length 7mm. Soft; pale thorax, dark brown wing-covers. One or two white segments on the underside of the abdomen form a light-emitting organ.
Habitat and range: Rainforest and moist eucalypt forest, southeast Qld and northeastern NSW. Rarely seen in suburban gardens bordering on bushland.

