



Workshop Summary

Title	Beetles of biosecurity concern
Date	6 th – 9 th July 2014
Location	Australian National University, Canberra
Workshop lead	Dr Adam Slipinski and Cate Leman, CSIRO

Activities

This three-day course was an introductory course on beetle taxonomy, and included representative taxa in 54 of the 117 families, with a focus on taxa and species of biosecurity concern. Participants undertook the basics of morphology needed for keying specimens, as well as examining examples from many of the important families.

The format for each day included morning and afternoon presentations followed by two hours practical sessions. Extended tea and lunch breaks encouraged interaction, networking and development of a sense of scientific community.

Day 1 Introduction to beetles, their life stages and biology

- Adult and larvae morphology, lectures and laboratory dissections
- Key characters used in family identification

Day 2 Identification of three major suborders of beetles

- Carabidae and major groups of water beetles
- Scarab, Buprestid and Staphylinid beetles
- Elateroid and Bostrichoid families

Day 3 Identification of major families

- Lymexyloid and Cleroid families
 - Cucujoid families
 - Tenebrionoid families
 - Chrysomeloids and weevils
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Outcomes

The workshop provided an excellent opportunity for entomologists across Australian biosecurity organisations to network and share information, together with a thorough introduction to beetle taxonomy. Hands on experience supplemented the theoretical presentations, and all participants received a copy of the reference text upon which the course was based – *Australian Beetles Volume 1, Morphology, Classification and Keys* (www.publish.csiro.au/pid/6466.htm).

Participants demonstrated improved fundamental morphological identification skills. To build on these skills, participants identified potential specialist training covering specific taxa for future professional development activities under the NPBDN.



Workshop participants



Beetle identification session

Participants

Organisation	Participants
Australian Government Department of Agriculture	Elaine Tou Eliza Finlay Graham Teakle John Nielsen Luke Sullivan Sarah Johnston Stacey Anderson Tony Robinson
Biosecurity Queensland	Justin Bartlett
Department of Agriculture, WA	John Botha
Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Victoria	Mark Blackett
Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment, Tasmania	Guy Westmore
Department of Primary Industry and Fisheries, NT	Haidee Brown
Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand	Carol Muir Dongmei Li Therese Oliver
NSW Department of Primary Industries	Chris Bloomfield
Scion (New Zealand Forest Research Institute)	Stephanie Sopow
South Australian Research and Development Institute	Michael Nash

This workshop was organised by the Professional Development Working Group of the Subcommittee on Plant Health Diagnostic Standards in collaboration with CSIRO and Plant Health Australia. Plant Health Australia provided financial assistance under a grant from the Australian Government Department of Agriculture's Plant Biosecurity Response and Reform program.

