



FRIDAY ENVIRONMENT FORUM

NPA Environment Centre

04 August

Incredible Insects

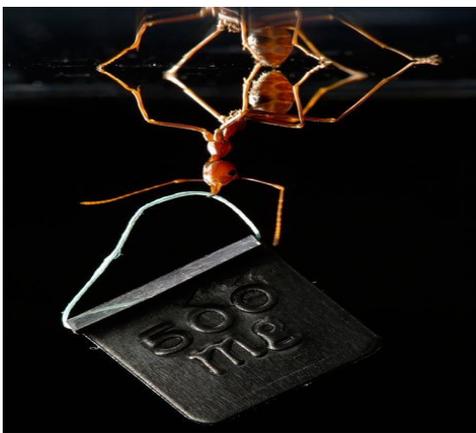
This week at Friday Forum – 04 August: Guest speaker will be *Dr Christofer Clemente*, lecturer in Animal Ecophysiology at University of the Sunshine on **August 4**. *The world of insect adhesion* has intrigued Dr Clemente for more than fifteen years. His studies of animal



Dr Christofer Clemente

movement have allowed him to work in many parts of the world from Cambridge University in England to Harvard University in the USA. Dr Clemente will explain the amazing adhesive abilities that allow ants and other insects to stick to, and then unstick themselves from walls, and to walk head up or head down whilst avoiding contamination to their pads. They can use these abilities even during extreme actions such as jumping. “I will show how we can use this knowledge against them, by designing specific surfaces that can inhibit their ability to stick to smooth surfaces” writes Dr Clemente.

Insects are often underappreciated for their remarkable ability to do things which humans struggle to match. One particular insect marvel is their ability to stick, upside-down on smooth surfaces. The Asian Weaver Ant, (*Oecophylla smaragdina*), pictured, is able to carry a weight more than one hundred times its body mass whilst walking upside down on a smooth surface. To do this the ants have incredibly sticky pads on their feet. However these do not stop them from running quickly across such surfaces.



Asian Weaver Ants (*Oecophylla smaragdina*) can carry weights of more than 100 times their own body mass whilst upside down on a smooth surface. This image taken by Thomas Endlein, University of Cambridge and member of the team, including Dr Clemente, studying insect adhesion.

To learn more about the incredible abilities of insects, join the audience On August 04 at the Environment Centre, 5 Wallace Drive, Noosaville just behind Noosa Library.. The forum starts at 10.30am, but coffee and a chat are on offer from 10am. Forum ends 12:15pm. For those interested in an interpretive birding walk before the forum, meet Valda in the Environment Centre car park at 8.30am.

All welcome.



Insect adhesion