

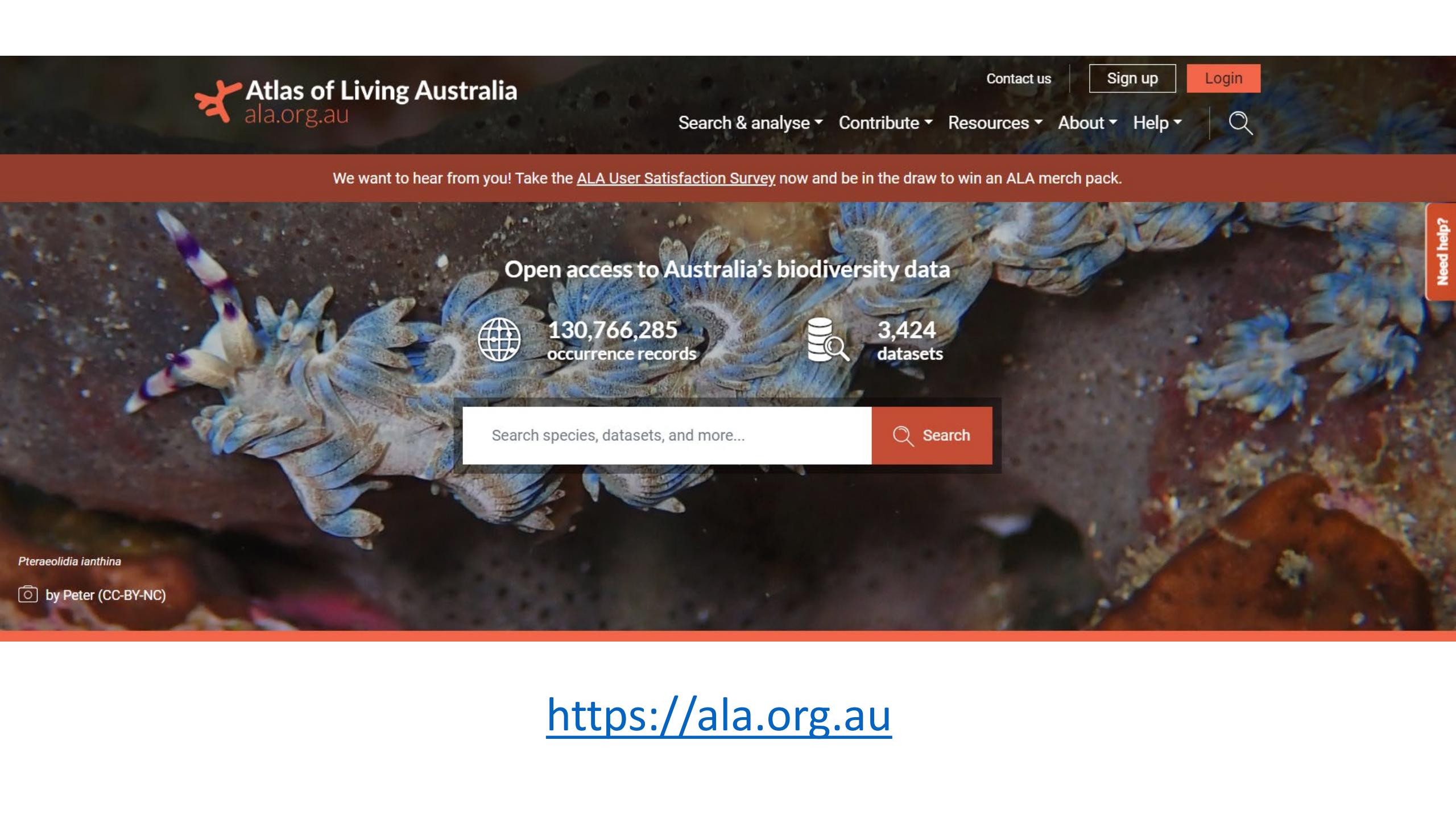


Perspectives on taxon pages from the Atlas of Living Australia

Dr Ely Wallis | Engagement Team Lead and Collections
Community Engagement Manager



We want to hear from you! Take the [ALA User Satisfaction Survey](#) now and be in the draw to win an ALA merch pack.



Open access to Australia's biodiversity data



130,766,285
occurrence records



3,424
datasets

Search species, datasets, and more...

Search

Need help?

Pteraeolidia ianthina

by Peter (CC-BY-NC)

<https://ala.org.au>

What is this?



The map shown represents all the occurrences recorded for the most commonly recorded species in the ALA. What is it? (Put your answers in the chat!) Let's play!

Hint 1. It's a bird

Hint 2. It's a reasonably large black and white bird

Hint 3. It is often seen on the ground and won't scare when you approach it

Hint 4. It is known to swoop cyclists and walkers during breeding season

Hint 5. It is the mascot for an Australian Rules football team (who just won the grand final)!

Australian Magpie

Gymnorhina tibicen



Australian Magpie (*Gymnorhina tibicen*)
Photo Credit iNaturalist user wingspanner CC BY NC

Over 1.83 million records in
ALA for this species alone

Lots of dots, lots of information!

<https://bie.ala.org.au/species/https://biodiversity.org.au/afd/taxa/5291343e-fdeb-4a65-8ba5-928f5b96acf5>

Gymnorhina tibicen (Latham, 1801)

species Accepted Name authority: AFD

Australian Magpie

Burrugarrbuu in Yuwaalayaay

Burrugarrbuu in Gamilaraay / Gamilaroi / Kamilaroi

Goorrbarroo in Noongar / Nyungar

Gurrabuu in Yuwaalayaay

Gurrabuu in Gamilaraay / Gamilaroi / Kamilaroi

Koolbardi in Noongar / Nyungar

Burrugarrbuu in Yuwaalaraay

Galalu in Gamilaraay / Gamilaroi / Kamilaroi

Gududook in Ritharrju

Gurrabuu in Yuwaalaraay

Gurrbula-Gurrbula in Alawa

Kurbardi in Noongar / Nyungar

[Overview](#)[Gallery](#)[Names](#)[Classification](#)[Charts](#)[Literature](#)[Data Partners](#)

Compiled distribution maps (1)



1: Expert distribution *Gymnorhina tibicen* provided by BirdLife International species range maps

Occurrence records map (1,830,394 records)



Need help?



Summary

It has been suggested that [Australian magpie in New Zealand](#) be merged into this article. ([Discuss](#)) Proposed since August 2023.

The **Australian magpie** (*Gymnorhina tibicen*) is a black and white [passerine](#) bird native to [Australia](#) and southern [New Guinea](#), and introduced to [New Zealand](#). Although once considered to be three separate species, it is now considered to be one, with nine recognised subspecies. A member of the [Artamidae](#), the Australian magpie is placed in its own [genus](#) *Gymnorhina* and is most closely related to the black butcherbird (*Melloria quoyi*). It is not closely related to the [European magpie](#), which is a [corvid](#).

The adult Australian magpie is a fairly robust bird ranging from 37 to 43 cm (14.5 to 17 in) in length, with black and white [plumage](#), gold brown eyes and a solid wedge-shaped bluish-white and black bill. The male and female are similar in appearance, but can be distinguished by differences in back markings. The male has pure white feathers on the back of the head where the female has white blending to grey feathers. With its long legs, the Australian magpie walks rather than waddles or hops and spends much time on the ground.

Described as one of Australia's most accomplished [songbirds](#), the Australian magpie has an array of complex vocalisations. It is [omnivorous](#), with the bulk of its varied diet made up of [invertebrates](#). It is generally sedentary and territorial throughout its range. Common and widespread, it has adapted well to human habitation and is a familiar bird of parks, gardens and farmland in Australia and New Guinea. This species is commonly fed by households around Australia, but in spring (and occasionally in autumn) a small minority of breeding magpies (almost always males) become aggressive, swooping and attacking those who approach their nests. Research has shown that magpies can recognise at least 100 different people, and may be less likely to swoop individuals they have befriended.

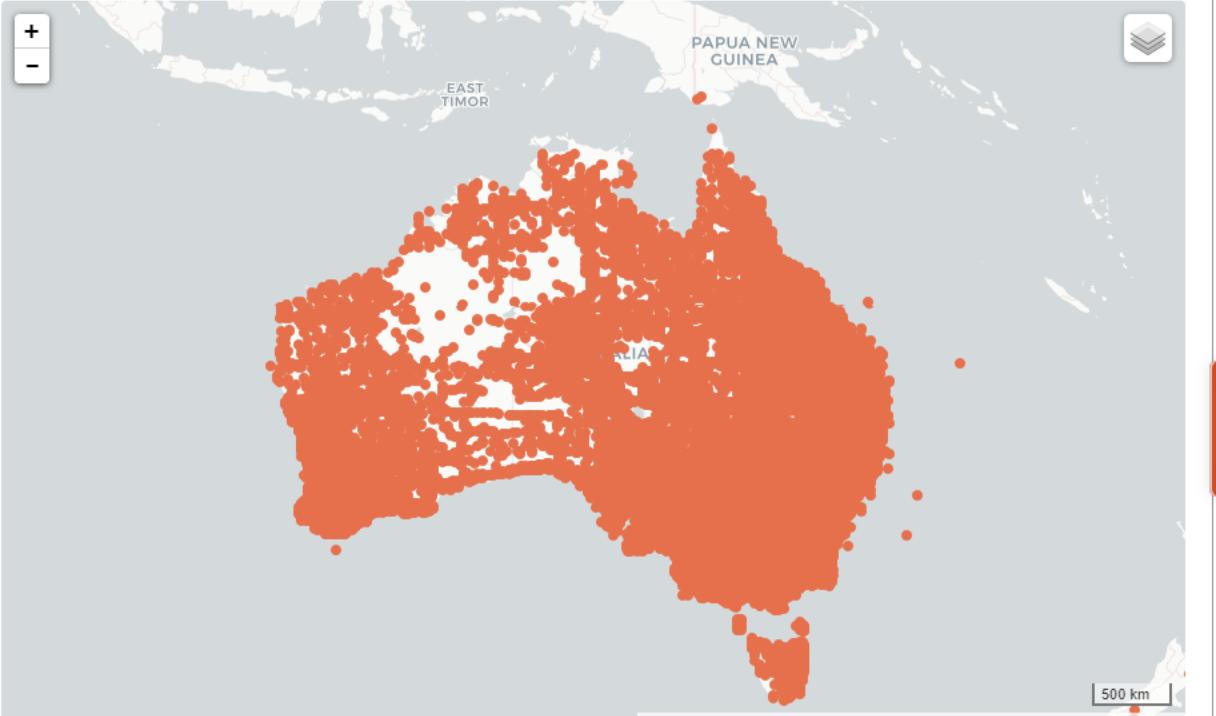
Over 1,000 Australian magpies were introduced into [New Zealand](#) from 1864 to 1874, but were subsequently deemed to be displacing native birds and are now treated as a pest species. Introductions also occurred in the [Solomon Islands](#) and [Fiji](#), where the birds are not considered an [invasive species](#). The Australian magpie is the mascot of several Australian and New Zealand sporting teams, including the Collingwood Magpies, the Western Suburbs Magpies, Port Adelaide Magpies and, in New Zealand, the Hawke's Bay Magpies.

Source: Wikipedia Content may be excluded.
Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License 4.0

Taxonomy and nomenclature

The Australian magpie was first described in the scientific literature by English ornithologist [John Latham](#) in 1801 as *Coracias tibicen*, the type collected in the [Port Jackson](#) region. Its specific epithet derived from the Latin *tibicen* "flute-player" or "piper" in reference to the bird's melodious call. An early recorded vernacular name is *piping poller*, written on a painting by [Thomas Watling](#), one of a group known collectively as the [Port Jackson Painter](#), some time between 1788 and 1792. Other names used include *piping crow-shrike*, *piping shrike*, *piper*, *maggie*, *flute-bird* and *organ-bird*. The term *bell-magpie* was proposed to help distinguish it from the European magpie but failed to gain wide acceptance.

Tarra-won-nang, or *djarrawunang*, *wibung*, and *marriyang* were names used by the local [Eora](#) and [Darug](#) inhabitants of the [Sydney Basin](#). *Booroogong* and *garoogong* were [Wiradjuri](#) words and Victorian terms included *carrik* (*Jardwadjali*), *kuruk* (Western Victorian languages), *kiri* (*Dhawurd Wurrung language*) and *kurikari* (*Wuluwurrung*). Among the [Kamilaroi](#), it is *burruaabu*, *galalu*, or *guluu*. In Western Australia



[View interactive map in the Spatial Portal](#)

[View and download occurrence records](#)

[Record a sighting](#)

[Receive alerts when new records are added](#)

Datasets

87 datasets have provided data to the Atlas of Living Australia for this species.

Browse the [list of datasets](#) and find organisations you can join if you are interested in participating in a survey for species like *Gymnorhina tibicen* (Latham, 1801)

State emblems

Emblem type	bird
State	South Australia

Provided by: [State emblems](#)

The bird was named for its similarity in colouration to the European magpie; it was a common practice for early settlers to name plants and animals after European counterparts. However, the European magpie is a member of the Corvidae, while its Australian counterpart is placed in the family Artamidae (although both are members of a broad corvid lineage). The Australian magpie's affinities with butcherbirds and currawongs were recognised early, and the three genera were placed in the family Cracticidae in 1914 by John Albert Leach after he had studied their musculature. American ornithologists Charles Sibley and Jon Ahlquist recognised the close relationship between woodswallows and the butcherbirds in 1985, and combined them into a Cracticini clade, in the Artamidae. The Australian magpie is placed in its own monotypic genus *Gymnorhina*, which was introduced by the English zoologist George Robert Gray in 1840. The name of the genus is from the Ancient Greek *gumnos* for "naked" or "bare" and *rhis, rhinos* "nostrils". Some authorities such as Glen Storr in 1952 and Leslie Christidis and Walter Boles in their 2008 checklist, have placed the Australian magpie in the butcherbird genus *Cracticus*, arguing that its adaptation to ground-living is not enough to consider it a separate genus. A molecular genetic study published in a 2013 showed that the Australian magpie is a sister taxon to the black butcherbird (*Melloria quoyi*), and that the two species are in turn sister to a clade that includes the other butcherbirds in the genus *Cracticus*. The ancestor to the two species is thought to have split from the other butcherbirds between 8.3 and 4.2 million years ago, during the late Miocene to early Pliocene, while the two species themselves diverged sometime during the Pliocene (5.8–3.0 million years ago).

The Australian magpie was subdivided into three species in the literature for much of the twentieth century: the black-backed magpie (*G. tibicen*), the white-backed magpie (*G. hypoleuca*), and the western magpie (*G. dorsalis*). They were later noted to hybridise readily where their territories crossed, with hybrid grey or striped-backed magpies being quite common. They were reclassified as one species by Julian Ford in 1969, with most recent authors following suit.

Subspecies

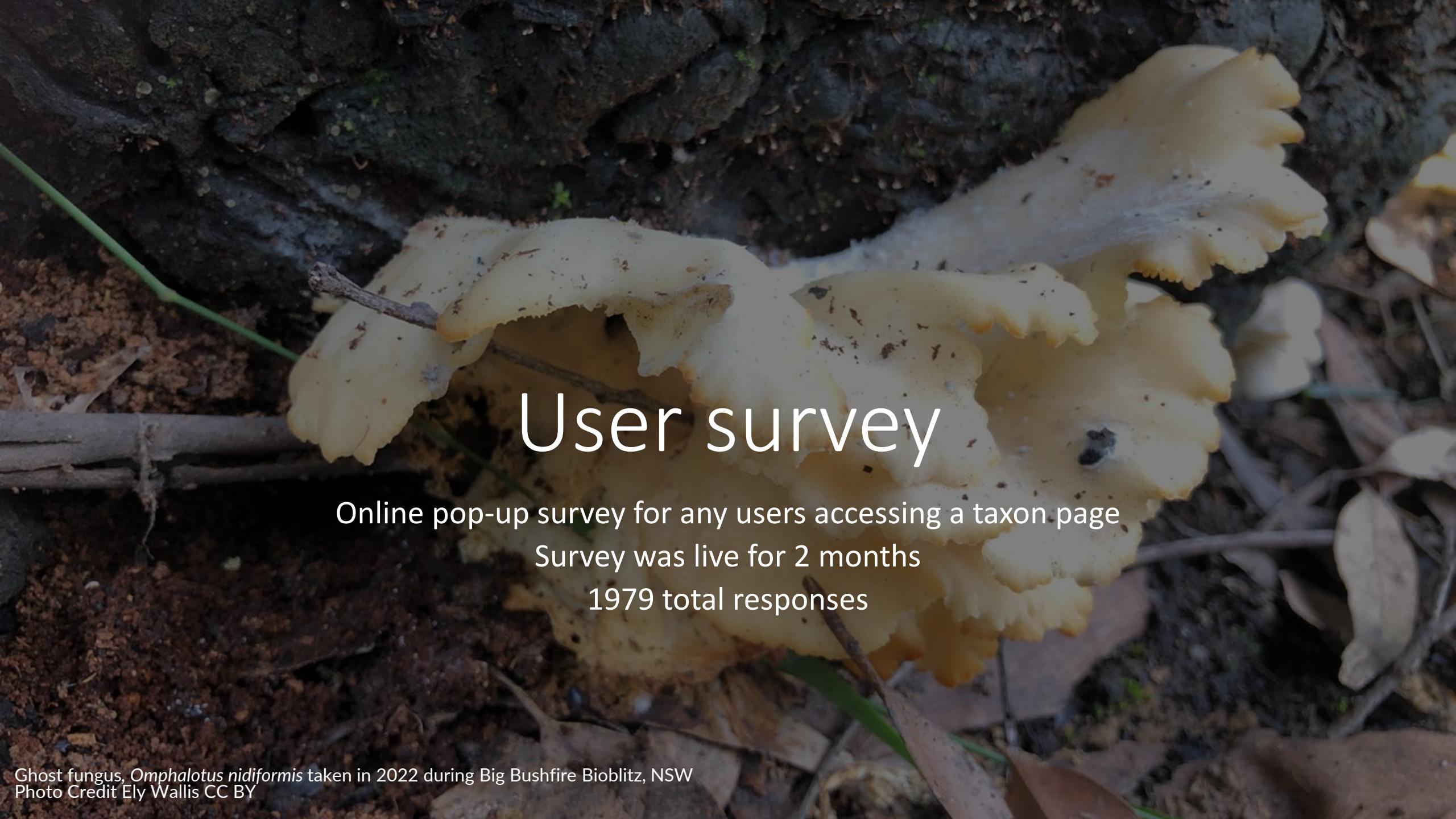
There are currently thought to be nine subspecies of the Australian magpie, although there are large zones of overlap with intermediate forms between the taxa. There is a tendency for birds to become larger with increasing latitude, the southern subspecies being larger than those further north, except the Tasmanian form which is small. The original form, known as the **black-backed magpie** and classified as *Gymnorhina tibicen*, has been split into four black-backed races:

- *G. tibicen tibicen*, the nominate form, is a large subspecies found in southeastern Queensland, from the vicinity of Moreton Bay through eastern New South Wales to Moruya, New South Wales almost to the Victorian border. It is coastal or near-coastal and is restricted to east of the Great Dividing Range.
- *G. tibicen terraereginae*, found from Cape York and the Gulf Country southwards across Queensland to the coast between Halifax Bay in the north and south to the Mary River, and central and western New South Wales and into northern South Australia, is a small to medium-sized subspecies. The plumage is the same as that of subspecies *tibicen*, although the female has a shorter black tip to the tail. The wings and tarsus are shorter and the bill proportionally longer. It was originally described by Gregory Mathews in 1912, its subspecies name a Latin translation, *terra* "land" *reginae* "queen's" of "Queensland". Hybridisation with the large white-backed subspecies *tyrannica* occurs in northern Victoria and southeastern New South Wales; intermediate forms have black bands of varying sizes in white-backed area. Three-way hybridisation occurs between Bega and Batemans Bay on the New South Wales south coast.
- *G. tibicen eylandtensis*, the Top End magpie, is found from the Kimberley in northern Western Australia, across the Northern Territory through Arnhem Land and Groote Eylandt and into the Gulf Country. It is a small subspecies with a long and thinner bill, with birds of Groote Eylandt possibly even smaller than mainland birds. It has a narrow black terminal tailband, and a narrow black band; the male has a large white nape, the female pale grey. This form was initially described by H. L. White in 1922. It intergrades with subspecies *terraereginae* southeast of the Gulf of Carpentaria.
- *G. tibicen longirostris*, the long-billed magpie, is found across northern Western Australia, from Shark Bay into the Pilbara. Named in 1903 by Alex Milligan, it is a medium-sized subspecies with a long thin bill. Milligan speculated the bill may have been adapted for the local conditions, slim fare meaning the birds had to pick at dangerous scorpions and spiders. There is a broad area of hybridisation with the western *dorsalis* in southern central Western Australia from Shark Bay south to the Murchison River and east to the Great Victoria Desert.

The **white-backed magpie**, originally described as *Gymnorhina hypoleuca* by John Gould in 1837, has also been split into races:

- *G. tibicen tyrannica*, a very large white-backed form found from Twofold Bay on the New South Wales far south coast, across southern Victoria south of the Great Dividing Range through to the Coorong in southeastern South Australia. It was first described by Schodde and Mason in 1999. It has a broad black tail band.
- *G. tibicen telonocua*, found from Cowell south into the Eyre and Yorke Peninsulas in southern South Australia, as well as the southwestern Gawler Ranges. Described by Schodde and Mason in 1999, its subspecific name is an anagram of *leuconota* "white-

Common name	Australian Magpie
Family	Artamidae
Provided by: Birds of Western Australia	
Climatewatch Birds	
A species list provided by Climatewatch Birds	
Provided by: Climatewatch Birds	
Museums Field Guide apps species profiles – vertebrates	
Brief description Black and white body, thick white bill.	
Description	Body black and white. Male: top of head, wings, face, underparts and tail tip black; wing-bar and rest of upperparts white. Female: like male, but duller and back mottled grey. Body up to 45 cm long.
Biology	Magpies are well known for their carolling calls at dawn and dusk. Males defend their territory, especially when breeding.
Habitat	Most areas.
Native status	Native to Australia
Diet	Insects
Colours	black white
Distribution	Central and Eastern mainland Australia.
Habitat types	Terrestrial
Commercial species	False
Author credit	Museum Victoria Sciences Staff / Museum Victoria
Provided by: Museums Field Guide apps species profiles – vertebrates	
Biological, ecological, conservation and legal information for all species and subspecies of Australian bird	
genus	Gymnorhina
specificEpithet	tibicen
infraspecificEpithet	NA
scientificName_CandB	<i>Cracticus tibicen</i>
nameAccordingTo	NA
Family_vernacularName	Woodswallows, Currawongs, Butcherbirds and Magpie
family	Artamidae

The background image shows a cluster of pale yellow, shelf-like mushrooms, likely Omphalotus nidiformis, growing on a dark, charred tree trunk. The mushrooms have a distinctively lobed or finger-like shape. Some green foliage is visible in the foreground.

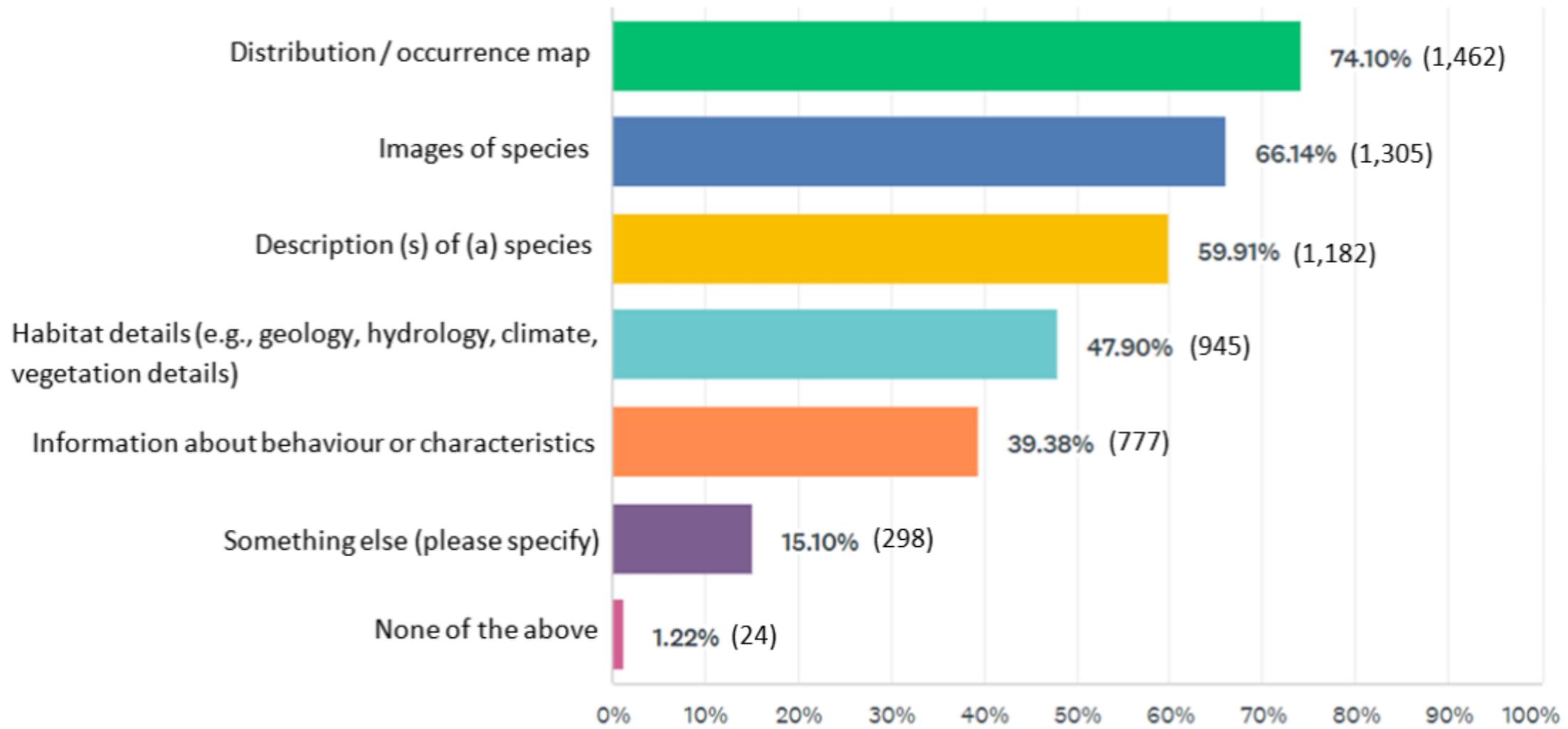
User survey

Online pop-up survey for any users accessing a taxon page

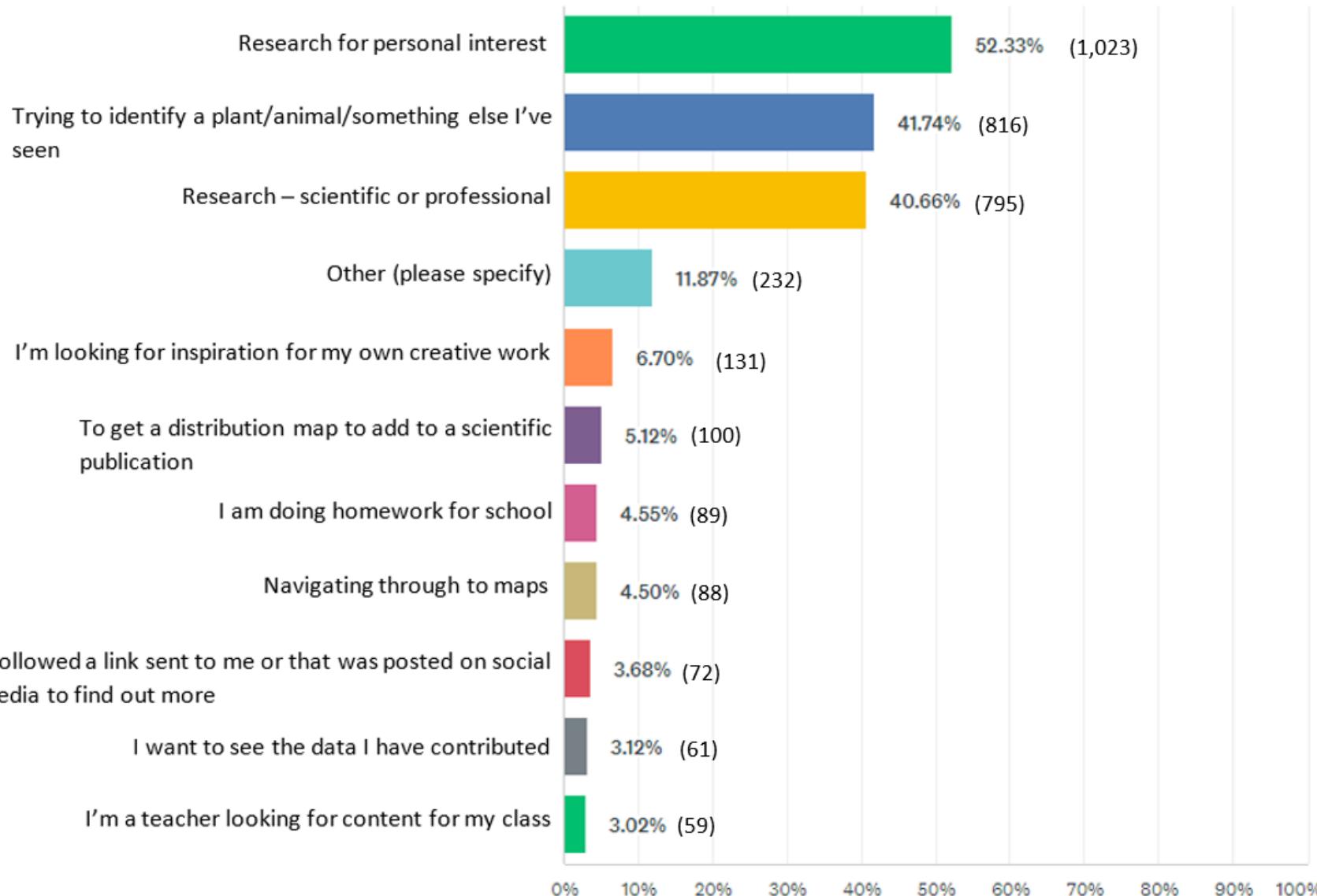
Survey was live for 2 months

1979 total responses

What information do you look for on taxon pages?



Why are you looking for that information?



Recommendations

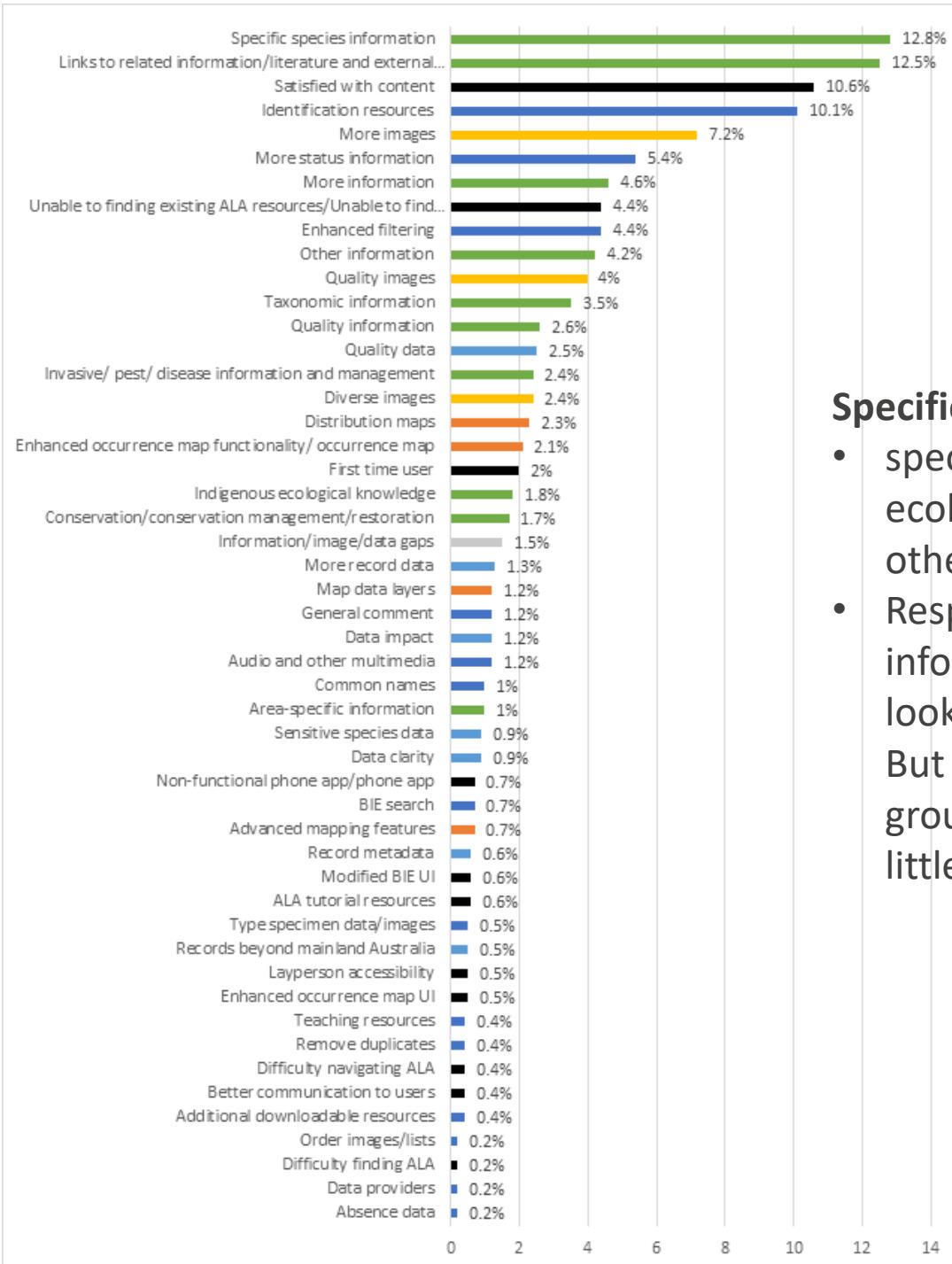
For users seeking help with identifications

- Allow users to view species distributions (not aggregated occurrences) by providing modelled distributions and ensuring displayed occurrence records are vetted by quality.
- Select species images on the overview which are accurately identified, high resolution, well framed, and representative.
- Ensure species descriptions are accurate, current, and detailed.
- Provide links to additional resources such as keys and help articles on identifying species.

For researchers

- Ensure text descriptions are sourced from authoritative providers.
- Respond promptly to data issues when raised (e.g. geocoding issues).
- Ensure taxonomic backbone is consistent, current and source is traceable.

What other information would be useful?



Specific species information

- species biology, life stages, ecology, relationships to other species, habitat, etc
- Respondents seeking this information were not looking at Magpie pages! But at less well-known groups or species that had little information



Where can we improve?

Drawing the correct information from Wikipedia

Linking to literature



The homonym problem - *Anthrax*

[Home](#) > [Search the Atlas of Living Australia](#) > [Anthrax](#)
[ANIMALIA](#) / [ARTHROPODA](#) / [HEXAPODA](#) / [INSECTA](#) / [Pterygotes](#) / [DIPTERA](#) / [BRACHYCERA](#) / [ORTHORRHAPHA](#) / [ASILOIDEA](#) / [BOMBYLIIDAE](#) / [Anthracinae](#) / [Anthrax](#)

Anthrax Scopoli, 1763

[genus](#) Accepted Name authority: AFD

[Overview](#) [Gallery](#) [Names](#) [Classification](#) [Charts](#) [Literature](#) [Data Partners](#)


Summary

Anthrax is a genus of [bombyliid flies](#), commonly known as "bee-flies" due to their resemblance to [bees](#). Most are dull black flies, and are usually small to medium in size, 4–20 millimetres (0.2–0.8 in), and many species have striking wing patterns.

Anthrax is a very large genus. While worldwide in distribution, most species are from the [Palaearctic](#) and [Afrotropic](#) regions. The genus includes species [parasitic](#) on tiger beetles – an unusual trait among the bee-flies. *A. anthrax* larvae parasitize bees. Many [North American](#) species parasitize [solitary wasps](#).

The type species is *Musca morio* Linnaeus, 1758, later found to be a misidentification of *Musca anthrax* Schrank, 1781.

Source: [Wikipedia](#) Content may be excluded.
Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License 4.0

Species

This list is incomplete; you can help by adding missing items. (September 2008)



Occurrence records map (979 records)


[View interactive map in the Spatial Portal](#)
[View and download occurrence records](#)
[Record a sighting](#)
[Receive alerts when new records are added](#)

Datasets

13 datasets have provided data to the Atlas of Living Australia for this genus.

Browse the [list of datasets](#) and find organisations you can join if you are interested in participating in a survey for species of *Anthrax* Scopoli, 1763.

Links to literature – where, oh where can they be?

Plantae / Charophyta / Equisetopsida / Magnoliidae / Rosanae / Myrtales / Myrtaceae / Callistemon / Callistemon viminalis

Callistemon viminalis (Sol. ex Gaertn.) G.Don

species Accepted Name authority: APC

Creek Bottlebrush

Overview Gallery Names Classification Charts Literature Data Partners Traits

Names and sources

Accepted Name

Accepted Name	Source
<i>Callistemon viminalis</i> (Sol. ex Gaertn.) G.Don	• APC

According to CHAH (2014), Australian Plant Census

Published in: Don, G. In Loudon, J.C. (1830), Loudon's Hortus Britannicus Edn. 1

Treated as *Melaleuca viminalis* in WA and Qld. *Callistemon viminalis* subsp. *viminalis* is recognised as a distinct taxon in SA.

Synonym

Synonym	Source
<i>Callistemon viminalis</i> subsp. <i>rhododendron</i> (Craven) Udovicic & R.D.Spencer heterotypic	• APC
Published in: Udovicic, F. & Spencer, R.D. (16 March 2012), New combinations in <i>Callistemon</i> (Myrtaceae). Muelleria 30(1)	
<i>Callistemon viminalis</i> (Sol. ex Gaertn.) G.Don subsp. <i>viminalis</i> homotypic	• APC
Published in: Udovicic, F. & Spencer, R.D. (16 March 2012), New combinations in <i>Callistemon</i> (Myrtaceae). Muelleria 30(1)	
<i>Melaleuca viminalis</i> subsp. <i>rhododendron</i> Craven heterotypic	• APC
Published in: Craven, L.A. (2009), <i>Melaleuca</i> (Myrtaceae) from Australia. Novon 19	
<i>Melaleuca viminalis</i> (Sol. ex Gaertn.) Byrnes subsp. <i>viminalis</i> homotypic	• APC
Published in: Craven, L.A. (2009), <i>Melaleuca</i> (Myrtaceae) from Australia. Novon 19	
<i>Callistemon</i> sp. <i>Boulia</i> (L.Pedley 5297) heterotypic	• APC
Published in: Threatened Species and Communities Section, Biodiversity Group, Environment Australia (8 July 1998), Endangered Species Protection Act 1992. Schedules 1, 2 & 3	
Placeholder name has been treated as unique.	
<i>Callistemon</i> sp. 'Boulia' (L.Pedley 5297) heterotypic	• APC

Need help?

Kearney N, Page R (2022) Supplying the Missing Links: Providing immediate access to the taxonomic literature from our taxonomic databases. Biodiversity Information Science and Standards 6: e91104. <https://doi.org/10.3897/biss.6.91104>



What are we doing well?

- Indigenous language names
- Linking to trait data – AusTraits
- Signifying threatened species status

Indigenous Language Names

[ANIMALIA](#) / [CHORDATA](#) / [VERTEBRATA](#) / [GNATHOSTOMATA](#) / [AVES](#) / [PASSERIFORMES](#) / [PASSEI](#) / [CORVIDA](#) / [ARTAMIDAE](#) / Cracticinae / [Gymnorhina](#) / [Gymnorhina tibicen](#)

 API

Gymnorhina tibicen (Latham, 1801)

species Accepted Name authority: AFD

Australian Magpie

Burrugarrbuu in Yuwaalayaay

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Overview

Gallery

Names

Classification

Charts

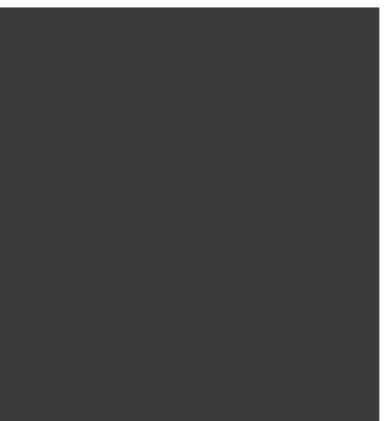
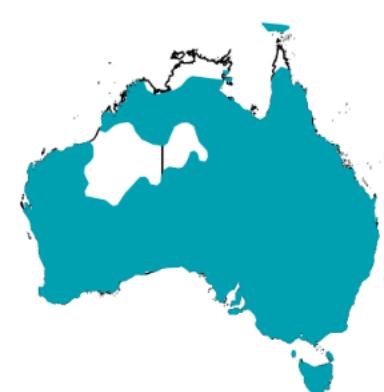
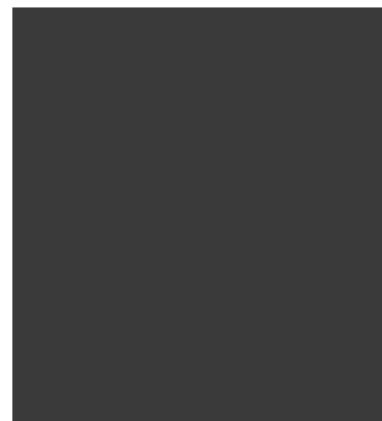
Literature

Data Partners

Need help?



Compiled distribution maps (1)



1: Expert distribution *Gymnorhina tibicen* provided by BirdLife International species range maps

Plant Traits in ALA - AusTraits

Plantae / Charophyta / Equisetopsida / Magnoliidae / Rosanae / Myrtales / Myrtaceae / Callistemon / Callistemon viminalis

Callistemon viminalis (Sol. ex Gaertn.) G.Don

API

species Accepted Name authority: APC

Creek Bottlebrush

Overview Gallery Names Classification Charts Literature Data Partners Traits



The trait data shown here are a selection from AusTraits, an open-source, harmonised database of Australian plant trait data, sourced from individual researchers, government entities (e.g. herbaria) or NGOs across Australia. Traits vary in scope from morphological attributes (e.g. leaf area, seed mass, plant height) to ecological attributes (e.g. fire response, flowering time, pollinators) and physiological measures of performance (e.g. photosynthetic gas exchange, water-use efficiency).

[See More](#)

Source: Zenodo
Rights holder: AusTraits
Provided by: AusTraits

How to cite AusTraits data

Falster, Gallagher et al (2021) AusTraits, a curated plant trait database for the Australian flora. Scientific Data 8: 254, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41597-021-01006-6> - followed by the ALA url and access date
For more information about citing information on the ALA, see - [Citing the ALA](#)

Need help?

There are 22 available for *Callistemon viminalis* with data for 12 further traits in the AusTraits database. These are accessible via the download CSV button or alternatively the entire database can be accessed at <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3568417>.

[Download CSV](#)

AusTraits definitions

Categorical Traits

* Data sources in AusTraits report multiple values for this trait, suggesting variation across the taxon's range and life stages. Please download the raw data with information about the context of data collection to assess whether they are relevant to your project.

Trait Name	Trait Value	Definition
Plant growth form	shrub, tree *	
Woodiness	woody	
Life history	perennial	
Leaf compoundness	simple	
Fire response	resprouts	
Bud bank location	basal stem buds	

Listed Threatened Species

ANIMALIA / CHORDATA / VERTEBRATA / GNATHOSTOMATA / AMPHIBIA / LISSAMPHIBIA / ANURA / LIMNODYNASTIDAE / *Philoria* / *Philoria frosti*

Philoria frosti Spencer, 1901

species Accepted Name authority: AFD

API
Need help?

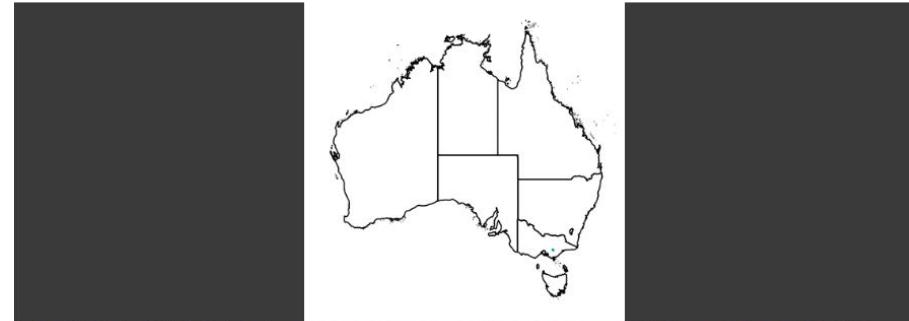
Baw Baw Frog

Overview [Gallery](#) [Names](#) [Classification](#) [Charts](#) [Literature](#) [Data Partners](#)



+

Compiled distribution maps (1)



Need help?

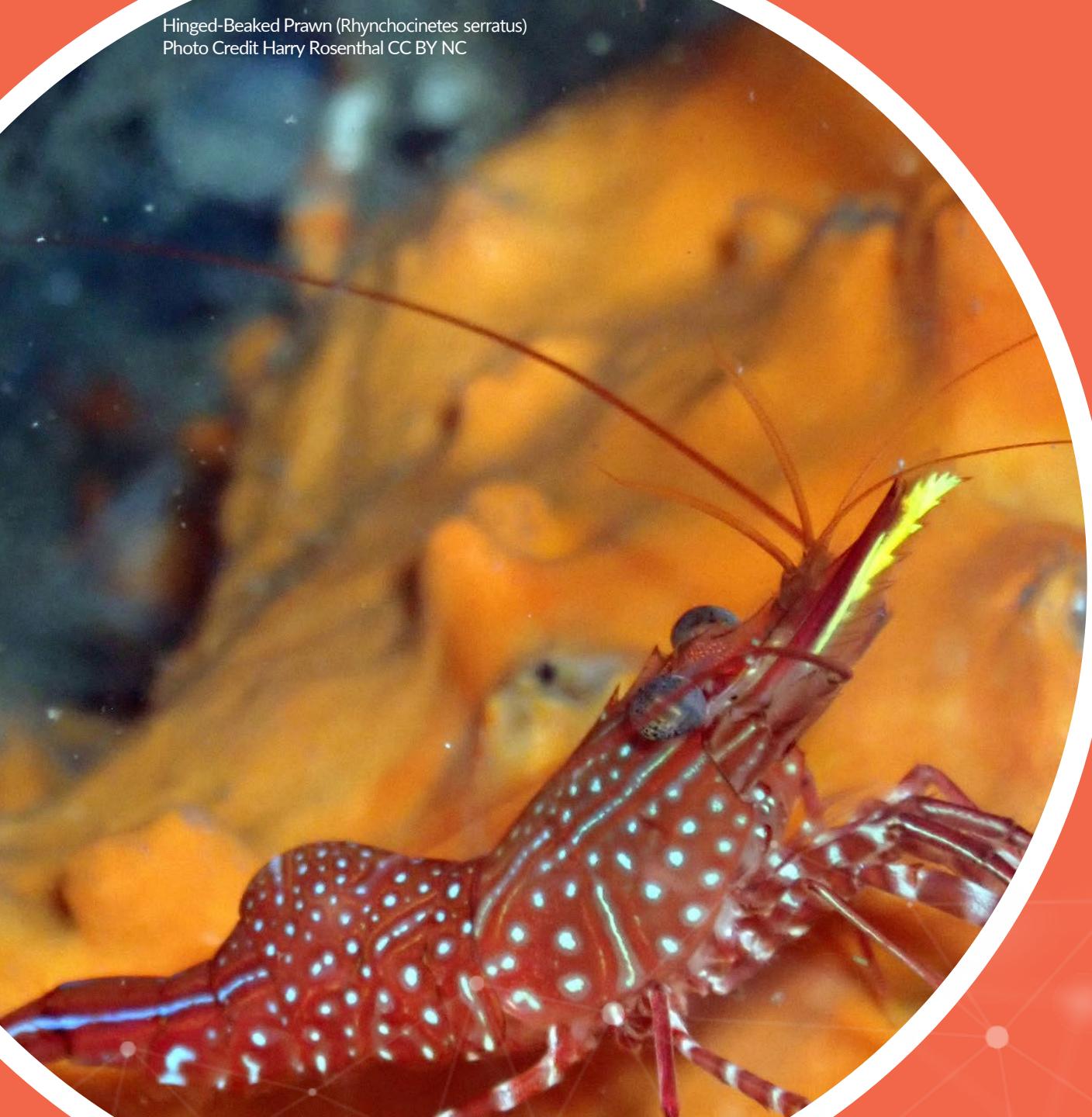
Occurrence records map (438 records)



Conservation Status

AUS Critically Endangered

VIC Critically Endangered



Thank you

Ely Wallis
Engagement Team Lead and Collections
Community Engagement Manager

e: Ely.Wallis@csiro.au