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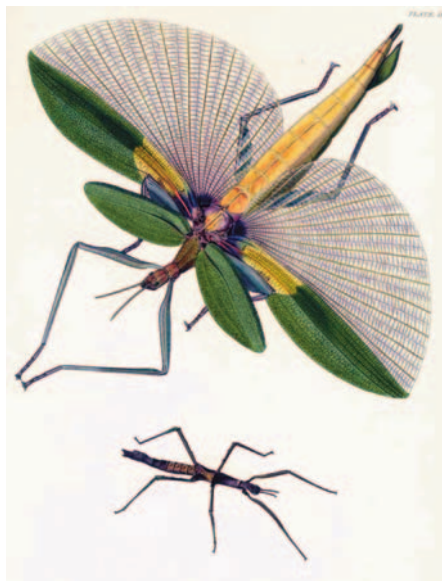
COLLECTING, PRESERVING, PHOTOGRAPHING AND REARING

The first Australian phasmid species were described by William S Macleay in 1826. Macleay had accompanied Captain Philip P. King on his survey of the tropical and western coasts of Australia between 1818 and 1822. When describing *Acrophylla titan* (as *Phasma titan*) Macleay stated ‘This immense insect, which is nearly a foot long, is now for the first time described, although it seems to be not uncommon in New South Wales’. He also described *Extatosoma tiaratum* (as *Phasma tiaratum*) as rare. The Macleay collection (now at the University of Sydney) was brought to Australia by William’s father, Alexander Macleay, in 1825. There is also a selection of Macleay’s phasmids in Edinburgh – the family were keen naturalists, devoting themselves almost entirely to entomology.

George R. Gray, a staff member of the British Museum, was only twenty five when, in 1833, he published *The Entomology of Australia. Part 1. The Monograph of the Genus Phasma*. This work included eight engravings by B Waterhouse, hand-coloured by G Bayfield, after original drawings by Charles M Curtis. It also included a number of new species and details of specimens from the Swan River Colony (Western Australia) collected by Alexander Collie and sent to Mr Children, as well as other specimens collected at various localities and brought to the British Museum by Mr Hunter, the surgeon who accompanied Captain King’s voyages. Gray referred to *Extatosoma tiaratum* (as

Phasma tiaratum) as being ‘found on the sapling gum-trees in the neighbourhood of Paramatta’ – the first record of a food plant of an Australian phasmid.

Gray went on to describe more spectacular phasmids in 1834 (from Melville Island, Swan River and other localities) and, in 1835, published a catalogue of all phasmids. Some of his descriptions are based on specimens in the Children collection (now in The Natural History Museum, London), the Curtis collection (Museum Victoria, Melbourne), and Hope collection (Oxford University Museum).



Tropidoderus childrenii and *Pachymorpha squalida* from *The Entomology of Australia. Part 1. The Monograph of the Genus Phasma* by George R. Gray, published in 1833.