



Wet and Wild



2021, Week 4 - Clues A Wet & Wild Birthday Bash

Solve 24 clues and discover the four Australian organisms they belong to.

1. I live in North Qld from Cairns to Innisfail, and even in Broome in Western Australia.
2. I'm endemic to coastal rainforest in north Queensland from Townsville to Cape York.
3. My species name is Greek; chrysos, gold and anthos, a flower, referring to the flower colour.
4. My species name is Latin, aureus meaning "golden".
5. Females can reach a body length of up to 40 mm, males only about 7 mm.
6. My cephalothorax is black, a white pattern on the back and yellow underside; my abdomen is grey to brown.
7. I live in tropical marine waters of the Western Pacific, including the north-west of WA, around to the southern Great Barrier Reef, Qld.
8. I share my burrow with shrimp in silty or sandy subtidal reefs and lagoon.
9. I prey on flying insects. Then food remains are strung into a small tangle of old insect bodies on the web.
10. The male is 12.5–14 mm long, but the female is bigger at 14.5–16.5 mm long and I often buzz loudly in flight.
11. My species name edulis means "edible" in Latin. Considered a delicacy when lightly roasted over a fire.
12. I grow to 10–15 m high and 5–8 m wide in the wild, but usually much more compact in gardens.
13. I am a gold, brass-gold or shiny red-brown colour with red-brown legs.
14. I'm pale grey with rows of brown spots along my side, a middle row of larger dashes with some gold spots encircled with brown.
15. I'm reluctant to bite, but symptoms are very mild local pain, numbness and swelling.
16. I live in water up to 20 m deep but I'm only 7cm long and eat small invertebrates.
17. My web is remarkably strong and has a characteristic yellow colour.
18. I stand guard while the shrimps continually dig and clean the sand from the burrow. I will signal when predators are near.
19. I'm heard from December to January and highly prized by entomologist and collectors around the world.
20. I was selected as the theme plant for Expo 88 and planted throughout Brisbane to create a 'sea of gold'.
21. The larvae feed on grass roots and most adults on eucalypt foliage.
22. I grow well in subtropical gardens with fair drainage and a sunny spot.
23. Flowers appear any time of year in clusters near the ends of the branches, are bright yellow and very showy.
24. I'm collected from the reef to be sold for the pet, marine aquarium trade.



Wetlands provide many benefits to people and the environment.
You can help by visiting your local wetland, taking part in World Wetlands Day or becoming a citizen scientist.