

Backyard BEASTIES

Here Come The
Hoppers!

By Jenny Thynne





Hello, we're hoppers!

We're found in many parts of Australia, with approximately 3,200 species around the world.

We range in colour from green and blue to bronze and are often marked with spots or stripes.



Some humans call us insect brownies because
of our elflike appearance.

We can jump huge distances when disturbed.



We are tiny, between 5 and 15mm in size.
I'm a *Lubra spinicornis* and have two horns.

Two horns?
Pfft! Look at my magnificent horn!





I'm a palm planthopper often found on palm leaves.



I'm also a palm planthopper.

Adult hoppers locate a mate through the use of courtship calls, similar to those used by their relatives, the cicadas.



I'm a young palm planthopper.
Young hoppers are called nymphs.



I'm a green horned treehopper and have two horns resembling thorns.
Female hoppers lay eggs singly or in masses, either inserted into the living tissue of their host plant or deposited on the plant's surface.



In spring, our nymphs emerge and feed on the sap of nearby weeds and grasses.



They feed by inserting their piercing mouthparts into the plant and sucking the sap, similar to mosquitoes sucking blood.

Hopper nymphs secrete honeydew from their behinds. Ants seek out these young hoppers to feed on the droplets of honeydew, and in return, offer protection to the nymphs.



Hopper nymphs mature and return to plants and trees in summer to lay eggs.



I'm a lantana treehopper native to Mexico,
Central America, and Colombia.

I was released in NSW and Queensland as a
biological control agent of the weed lantana.

Some of our females coat their eggs with a frothy substance that hardens when dry.





Sometimes, our females guards her eggs and remains with the young.
The family stay together in groups called aggregations throughout
their development, which may take a month or more.



Hoppers are common throughout Queensland, but not many people notice us!

Off I go into the sunset ...





Stay tuned for more
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BEASTIES**

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