

## **A Species List and Bibliography of the Insects Recorded from Norfolk Island**

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**ABSTRACT.** Nearly 700 species of insects are listed as having been recorded from Norfolk Island and a bibliography of more than 200 papers is provided from which the records have been obtained. This paper is intended to be a working document which, it is hoped, will make it largely unnecessary for subsequent workers to repeat time-consuming literature searches.

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Some thirty years ago residents of Norfolk Island expressed concern for the future of the fauna and flora of the island. As a result of this the Survival Commission of the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources asked the Australian Conservation Foundation to make an urgent investigation into the situation. In response to this Professor John Turner, Dr Ruurd Hoogland and I visited the island in late 1967. The report which resulted was published as the *Australian Conservation Foundation Special Publication* Number 1 (Turner, Smithers & Hoogland, 1968). This report made strong recommendations on the preservation and conservation of the natural, historical and scenic values of Norfolk and nearby Nepean and Philip islands at a time when environmental concerns were not generally as great as they are now. Much has been achieved since that early report, with establishment of the then recommended Norfolk Island National Park and Botanical Garden being central factors in the protection of the natural environment and maintenance of the natural biodiversity on the island (Anon., 1984). Since the Australian Museum's initial involvement many members of the museum staff have

visited the island, some several times, with the result that the association established in 1967 continued. In recent years a number of other institutions and individuals have also become more interested in the fauna of Norfolk Island.

An appendix to the initial report (Turner *et al.*, 1968) included an incomplete list of the island's insects, which was virtually a list of those species thought at the time to be endemic to Norfolk. As a result of subsequent work by many authors it is now possible to provide a more authoritative and comprehensive species list and bibliography of the relevant literature. It is hoped that these will largely overcome the need for others to repeat the time-consuming task of seeking out the scattered literature. As this document is intended to be a working tool the following comments on its compilation are provided to help users understand its coverage and its limitations.

It began as a literature search, made in preparation for the visit to Norfolk Island in late 1967, which used as a starting point a paper by Hawkins (1943). This dealt with a collection made by Mrs Ida McComish which had been obtained by the British Museum and with material already in that museum. Hawkins also included previously