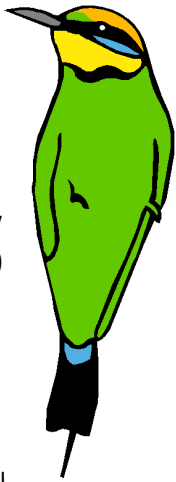


GARDEN FOR WILDLIFE



Big Headed Ant Workshop

Have you seen these feral ants around your house? GfW and the Threatened Species Network will be holding a BHA workshop at **Bloomin Deserts on the 14th July at 10:30am** to help property owners positively identify BHA's and take action in controlling the spread of this invasive ant. BHA's are one of the world's top 100 invasive species and they are on the move in Alice Springs. The likely impacts on the highly biodiverse habitats in Alice Springs are a major cause for concern. If you think that you might have BHA's, please bring along a specimen for identification.



LACM ENT 142295. Costa Rica. Image by J. Longino Sep'03.

The big headed ant is an introduced species in Alice Springs which poses a serious threat to local invertebrate communities as it reduces native insects severely, especially our ants. A reduction in the number and type of our native ants is likely to have a major impact on the ecological services that native ants provide which include soil aeration, pollination and seed dispersal. (www.csiro.cazr.au)



Tar Vine - *Boerhavia coccinea*

Tar Vine is a native, low groundcover commonly found in Alice Springs back yards. It has hairy, triangular leaves and small white, purplish or pink flowers. The stems can run for up to three metres along the ground, and are very sticky, especially the young tips.

Aboriginal people found lots of uses for Tar Vine. The roots can be eaten, raw or lightly toasted. A green caterpillar, the larvae of a large hawkmoth (Yeperenyne to the Western Arrernte) can be found on the vine and is often eaten. Pitjantjatjara children put the sticky vines around small waterholes to trap small birds.

Latz, P. (1995) *Bushfires & Bushtucker – Aboriginal Plant Use in Central Australia*.

Promotions for Garden for Wildlife will be occurring at the **Alice Springs Show** – Australian Plant Society display area. If anyone would like to volunteer for 1-2 hours to help spread the word, please give Heidi a call on **8955 5222** or email lfw@lowecol.com.au

GfW has already proven to be a successful voluntary conservation scheme that aims to increase wildlife corridors and natural resource awareness in Alice Springs. GfW assists property owners in creating wildlife habitats in their own backyards that will be sustainable in this nationally recognised biodiverse region.