



Stick Insects – Identification

A look at the three different families of stick insects

← Family Phylliidae – Leaf Insect

This family houses the true leaf insects. The family is distinct in its flat leaf like appearance. The male is green, slender with long wings. The female has large forewings and is much broader. North Queensland.

↓ Family Phasmatidae – Peppermint stick insect

In this family is the unique stick insect “the peppermint stick insect”. When disturbed, this stick insect can squirt a milky, peppermint scented liquid from small openings behind the head. This insect is plant specific, it only feeds on one type of plant, the Pandanus .



← Family Diapheromeridae – Spinosipyloidea doddi

Females are stocky, long-winged and have thoracic spines. Notice the smaller male hanging on the female. Found in North Qld.



Family Phasmatidae –Red-winged Stick insect →
 The males in this species reach 8cm, females up to 11cm. Usual colour, green, the female has large, deep-pink wings reaching end of her abdomen. Found coastal New South Wales up to North Queensland. Also found in Victoria and South Australia.