

Habitat

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Biology is about us and the living things we share the house, the garden and the planet with. There's lots of sharing in our garden, but we don't share the house with a pig and everyone agrees to keep crocodiles out of the Khlongs (canals). We share with tiny ants inside, with small things outside and with plants everywhere. These are the things we will write about.

Let's start with habitat

Habitat is all important. Without somewhere to live there is no living. If you took our house away we'd be gone too. We didn't find the things below just anywhere: they are *residents*: we found them at 'home'. Look carefully in the right place. Sneak up with a macro camera or shake them out. For many very small things shaking-out is best.



Seven insects and one pseudo-scorpion form the bulk of this post. They're *residents* here: they live in specific places. Many of the other things we find in random places are *visitors*. Sometimes we attract them with food, but that's another story.

A corner of the yard

Taro, bananas, and holy-basil bushes.

The hanging vine is a wild melon. We planted that and we'll have more to say about it in a another post.

There are lots of small things in the basil, and shaking the vine above a white tray is interesting.



There are long horn-beetles (three species) and red assassin bugs in the vine.



Long-horn beetle is on the left and the scary one on the right is a red assassin bug: a cm long and not dangerous to handle.

There are things in the lemon grass on the left and different things in the drum of decaying lawn clippings on the right.

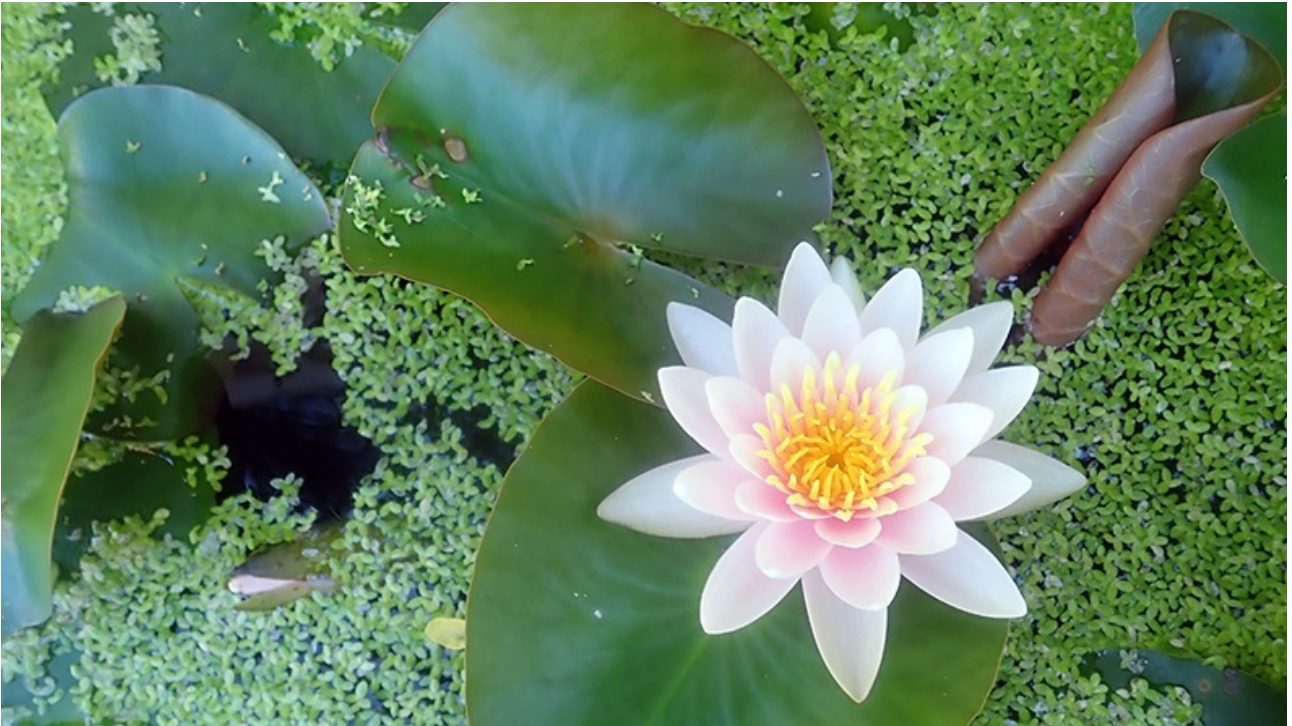


Some insects we find only on lemon grass and many things are in the barrel of lawn clippings and nowhere else.



This plant hopper that sucks sap was on the lemon grass, and the pseudo scorpion (related to a spider) is from our decaying grass clippings. It's a carnivore but not dangerous, just 4 mm from claw tip to claw tip.

The next place to look is in one of the ponds in pots.



There are snails and insects here too.



An air-breathing water beetle (centre left) and water snails fill the frame.

What has become of our lawn? The bushes are basil plants. They self-sow and don't need looking after. Many different insects inhabit the basil bushes. To find them shake a bush onto a tray, and put them back please.



Sap-sucking lace bugs (left) and predatory big-eyed bugs like the one on the right are in the basil bushes but nowhere else.



Our Guava tree



The female scale insect on the left stays in one place and sucks sap. It's easy to find and photograph and is only found on the Guava.



The tree hopper on the right sits on a Guava tree stem near the tip looking like a thorn and also sucks sap.

Five different habitats within metres of each other and five different communities. With experience you will learn where to look: when to look (what season and time of day or night) and learn that when you find one or two species there will be others. Have fun: photograph: *don't kill things*.