

Contributors

Associate Professor Michael Braby is an Honorary Associate Professor in the Division of Ecology and Evolution at The Australian National University and a Visiting Scientist at the Australian National Insect Collection. He is recognised internationally for his research on the biodiversity of butterflies—particularly their taxonomy, systematics, biogeography, conservation biology and ecology—and has published four books, 120 scientific research papers and numerous popular articles. His research aims to better understand and document the composition, biogeographic patterns and evolutionary history of butterflies and the underlying processes shaping their assembly on the Australian continent, as well as management actions needed for their conservation. Michael has lived and worked in the Australian Monsoon Tropics for 15 years, having completed a PhD at James Cook University at Townsville (1989–93) before working for the Northern Territory Government in Darwin (2005–14), where he designed and managed a relational database of invertebrates, including butterflies and diurnal moths, the records of which form the basis of this atlas. He also spent two years at Harvard University as a Fulbright Fellow (1999–2001). In 2001, Michael was awarded the Whitley Medal for the best book on the natural history of Australian animals, *Butterflies of Australia: Their identification, biology and distribution*.

Dr Donald Franklin is an ecologist and natural historian who has lived and worked in the Australian Monsoon Tropics for more than two decades, being based in Darwin for much of that time, but now living in far north Queensland. His diverse research interests include plants, birds and butterflies, with

perspectives including species ecology and conservation biology, interactions between plants and fauna, phenology in seasonal and arid environments and community ecology. Eucalypts—the trees that dominate so many Australian forests and woodlands—are a special interest and he is currently working on a regional field guide to them. Don is the author of two books, 11 book chapters, 108 peer-reviewed papers and numerous technical reports and popular science articles. In his spare time during the past 13 years, he has been conducting butterfly surveys, cultivating a garden for butterflies, conducting surveys of eucalypts and photographing plants, butterflies and landscapes.

Deborah Bisa lived in the Northern Territory for 22 years and during that time developed strong connections to the local environment and culture through her study, work, volunteering efforts and publishing achievements. Between 2012 and 2017, she was the collections and facility manager at the Northern Territory Herbarium. She was editor and publication coordinator for Nic Smith's *Weeds of the Wet/Dry Tropics of Australia: A field guide* (2002), co-author with Don Franklin of the 'Field Key to the Lycaenid Butterflies of the Top End and Kimberley' (2008) and in 2016 she published five years of historical research, *Remember Me Kindly: A history of the Holtze family in the Northern Territory*. She spent five years working in the remote Arnhem Land coastal community of Maningrida (2005–10). In 2001, Deb pioneered the development of a relational database (c. 7,900 records) for capturing records from butterfly surveys in the Top End, undertaken in conjunction with Don Franklin and a small group of enthusiastic 'butterflies';

these records form a key component of this atlas. Some of Deb's Northern Territory on-country experiences and notable findings were published in the *Northern Territory Naturalist* in 2013.

Dr Matthew Williams is a Senior Research Scientist at the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions in Western Australia. He has studied the biology, ecology and taxonomy of Western Australia's butterflies and day-flying moths for more than 30 years, is actively involved in their conservation and has undertaken several major field expeditions in the Kimberley. His research aims to better understand the biogeography of Australia's butterfly fauna, particularly the processes that have shaped their distribution—both past and present. This work has important implications for preserving Australia's unique butterflies within the modern landscape of fragmented patches of native vegetation. Matthew is also the department's biometrician and in this role oversees the design and analytical robustness of all conservation research publications. Since 2010, he has coordinated and led the graceful sun-moth research program in south-western Western Australia, coordinating the skills of many enthusiastic nature-minded volunteers. Matthew's analytical expertise, coupled with firsthand experience of the Kimberley and western Northern Territory Lepidoptera fauna, makes him a key contributor to this atlas.

Andrew Williams grew up in Kenya, where he was introduced to wildlife by his father, John G. Williams, ornithologist at the Coryndon Museum in Nairobi. Andrew became interested in butterflies largely because of his father's passion for Lepidoptera. In his early career, Andrew conducted many faunal surveys in Africa for the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, and the Royal Ontario Museum in Canada. In 1969, Andrew joined the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology in California, working primarily in Central America. In 1979, he immigrated to Australia to work for the West Australian Department of Fisheries and Wildlife (now the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and

Attractions), working in nature conservation for 37 years. Andrew conducted three major Lepidoptera field expeditions to the Kimberley; his data are an integral part of this atlas. Andrew has co-authored field guides on American and European orchids and written numerous research papers and wildlife articles. On retirement, Andrew became a departmental Research Associate. He is based at the Western Australia Wildlife Research Centre, where he works on threatened sun-moths and butterflies. His most recent co-authored paper on the sun-moths of Western Australia was published in *Records of the Western Australian Museum* in 2016.

Dr Carly Bishop is a landscape ecologist with a focus on the application of landscape ecology concepts to environmental management issues under state and Commonwealth legislation. Her research interests include conservation of mammals, butterflies and day-flying moths, particularly ensuring that scientific knowledge is incorporated into conservation policy and management.

Rebecca Coppen is an ecologist with expertise in invertebrate zoology and conducting botanical and Lepidoptera field surveys. Her research interests include the conservation of wetlands, their associated flora and fauna, particularly invertebrates, and the conservation of threatened butterflies and day-flying moths.

This text is taken from *Atlas of Butterflies and Diurnal Moths in the Monsoon Tropics of Northern Australia*, by M.F. Braby, D.C. Franklin, D.E. Bisa, M.R. Williams, A.A.E. Williams, C.L. Bishop and R.A.M. Coppen, published 2018 by ANU Press, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia.