**Australian Spiny Leaf Insect**

**Native to:** Queensland to New South Whales in Australia

**Predators:**  Birds, Lizards, Mammals, Frogs

**Food:**  Leaves from Eucalyptus Trees

**Facts:**.

* They can reach about 6 inches in length.
* The males and females are sexually dimorphic. Females are generally much large and thicker than the males. Males can also have wings in which they use to fly from one tree to the next in search of females for breeding purposes.
* When threatened the stand on hind legs in a defense posture protruding their spines in different directions. Males will also flap their wings in defensive postures as well.
* Like most stick insects they rely of passive camouflage for their protecting. They are designed to look like dead sticks on the trees they live. They will even slowly sway to imitate to movement of the wind on the tree as well.
* When little to no males are present during breeding season females can go through parthenogenesis producing eggs on their own that take up to 90 days to hatch and are an all female clutch.
* Because of habitat destruction and loss of Eucalyptus trees in Australia this stick insects numbers are on a steady decline in the wild.

**Defense Mechanisms:**

* Camouflage and Mimicry
* Defensive Posturing

**Reproduction:**

Females lay egg during the spring that take up to 40 days to hatch. Their can be up to 80 eggs in each clutch.

**Lifespan:** Can live up to around 4 to 8 yrs. Most of those years are spent in their larval and developmental stages.

**Handling Tips**

Our stick insect are very delicate creatures. They should be handled very gently and allowed to walk on and off your hand of their own will.