

# Welcome

Last Updated Thursday, 30 July 2009

Help Celebrate Darwin in Darwin  
Holiday Inn Esplanade, Darwin

Welcome to The Combined Australian Entomological Society's 40th AGM & Scientific Conference / Society of Australian Systematic Biologists / 9th Invertebrate Biodiversity & Conservation Conference 25-28 September, 2009. The venue for the Conference is Holiday Inn Esplanade, Darwin.

This meeting has been arranged to follow on from a Special Charles Darwin Symposium being held 22-24 September 2009. The Charles Darwin Symposium has a thought provoking, exciting program and there is no registration fee - so why don't you consider coming to Darwin a few days earlier to discover how Charles Darwin has shaped our science, society and future?

The year 2009 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Darwin and the 150th anniversary of his work *The Origin of Species*. For Darwinites it is also the 170th anniversary of the naming of the Port of Darwin during the third voyage of the *Beagle*. The Symposium will provide an opportunity to celebrate, debate, and even challenge Darwin's contribution to science, society and the future, and will bring together an exciting range of acknowledged experts from Australia and around the globe [www.darwin200.org.au](http://www.darwin200.org.au)/Invitation from the Organising Committee:

The Organising Committee extends a warm invitation to visit Darwin in the tropical Northern Territory for the Combined Australian Entomological Society's 40th AGM & Scientific Conference / Society of Australian Systematic Biologists / 9th Invertebrate Biodiversity & Conservation Conference.

The themes we have chosen to highlight during the conference are that relate to the Darwinian revolution: evolution, biogeography, biodiversity and conservation but we also welcome contributions on any other aspect of the science that relates to the interests of the groups meeting.

Darwin is the capital city of the Northern Territory, Australia and founded in 1869. World War II put Darwin on the map as a major allied military base for troops fighting the Japanese in the Pacific. Darwin is used to change and adaptation having been rebuilt after the bombings during the war and then again after Cyclone Tracy in 1974, making it a very modern city. Situated on the Timor Sea, Darwin has a population of 120,900, making it by far the largest and most populated city in the sparsely peopled Northern Territory, but the least populous of all Australia's capital cities.

Darwin has a relaxed outdoor lifestyle and enjoys warm weather all year round. Perched on a peninsula with sea on three sides, Darwin is an excellent base to explore the natural attractions of World Heritage listed Kakadu National Park, Litchfield and Nitmiluk National Parks, the Tiwi Islands and Arnhem Land.

Its colourful history has contributed to Darwin's cultural diversity - more than 50 nationalities make up its population, including the area's traditional landowners, the Larrakia Aboriginal people. The cultural and culinary benefits of such a melting pot are best experienced at Darwin's weekly markets, variety of restaurants and through the annual calendar of festivals and other Darwin events.

The weather in September is likely to be warm - 28 degrees celsius with the possibility of some rain (15mm for the month of September).

The Organising Committee:

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