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ON FRONT COVER

In the conservation of biodiversity, all organisms are important and deserving of protection. This includes these Spitfire larvae which are conspicious and sometimes important defoliators of eucalypts. Spitfires are in the Sawfly Family, Pergidae, and have the quaint habit of exuding eucalypt oils and semi-digested foliage when threatened. In a cluster, as shown in the cover photo, this can be a potent defence, but does not deter some parrots which bite off the twig on which the larvae are clustered and eat them much like a child eating a candy apple. (Photo H. Recher).