

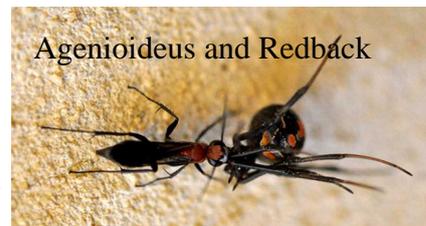


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Conservation Officer's Report,

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Adelaide researchers say a small wasp that scientists had forgotten about for more than 200 years is now making a name for itself—as a predator of Australia’s most common dangerous spider, the Redback. The wasp, *Agenioideus nigricornis* was first described scientifically in 1775 during Captain Cooks first great voyage. Since then scientists have largely forgotten about the wasp which is widespread across Australia, but until now the importance of this species has not been known. Florian Irwin, aged nine spotted the wasp dragging the spider several metres back to it’s nest and told his father who photographed the event and kept the specimens. He contacted the museum about the discovery and they alerted researchers at the university of Adelaide. They were very excited about this discovery, which prompted a study of this species of wasps. The wasp is less than a centimetre in length and no bigger than it’s prey. It stings and paralyses the spider and drags it back to its nest, where the wasp lays an egg on it. The spider remains alive but is paralyzed. Once the eggs hatches, the larval wasp feeds on the spider. This spider is notorious in Australia, and is one of the most dangerous species in Australia, being mostly associated with human dwellings it has been a problem for many years.



Agenioideus and Redback

Researchers have identified a new species of African monkey locally known as the Lesula. It is only the second new species of African monkey discovered in the last 28 years. The first Lesula found was a young captive animal seen in 2007 in a school director’s compound in the town of Opala in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The young monkey bore a resemblance to the owl faced monkey, but its colouration was unlike that of any other known species. Over the following three years, study authors located additional Lesula in the wild, determined their genetic and anatomical distinctiveness, and made initial observations of its behaviour and ecology. The new species range covers about 6500 square miles in central DRC, in what was one of Congo’s last biologically unexplored forests.



Captive *Cercopithecus lomamiensis*.

Left. Adult male .
Right subadult female

Although this region is remote and only slightly settled at present, the Lesula is threatened by local bush meat hunting. The challenge for conservation now is to intervene before losses become definite. Species with small ranges like the Lesula can move from vulnerable to seriously endangered over the course of just a few years.

There were 16 reported sightings of Bottlenose Dolphins during September, all between St Ives on the north coast and Fowey on the south. The largest pod seen was of 32 off Kenidjack Head on the 7th. Two other sightings of unidentified dolphins were probably Bottlenose. 8 sightings of Common Dolphins were all around west Penwith except one sighting of two dolphins off Lobber Point near St Issac. The largest pod being of about 100 in Mounts Bay on the 15th. 4 other sightings of small pods of unidentified dolphins were thought to be Commons. Only 3 reports of Rissos Dolphins, one of which was of 2 animals seen from The Scillonian, the other two reports were probably of the same pod of 5 seen off Pendeen and Kenidjack Head on the same day. 35 reports of Harbour Porpoises were from St Ives around to St Mawes on the south coast. Several pods of about 20 were scattered around Mounts Bay on the 19th with a total probably over 100. There were 7 reported sightings of Minke Whales, two were of single animals the other 5 of 2 animals, so 12 in total. Basking Sharks were reported 32 times, all around West Penwith, from Morvah on the north coast to Mounts Bay. The largest number seen together was 28 off Kenidjack Head on the 7th. Ocean Sunfish were reported 26 times. They were seen from The Rumps, near Padstow around to Mounts Bay, mainly in ones or twos but 5 were seen off St Ives on the 3rd. 18 sightings of Grey Seals were mostly of Seals hauled out on rocks around Mounts Bay. There were two reports of Sharks other than Baskers, one off Porthtowan on the 17th the other in Mounts Bay on the 19th