

Classification

Stick Insect

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| Kingdom: | Animalia |
| Phylum: | Arthropoda |
| Class: | Hexapoda |
| Order: | Phasmatodea |
| Family: | Phasmatidae |
| Species: | <i>Acrophylla wuelfingi</i> |
| Common Names: | Walkingstick, Stick Insect |

Body

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| Body Parts: | 3, head, thorax & abdomen |
| Legs: | 6 |
| Wings: | 4, but most stick insect females have no wings while males can fly. <i>Acrophylla wuelfingi</i> females have wings. |
| Eyes: | 2 compound eyes |
| Mouthparts: | Leaf cutting mouthparts |
| Claws: | Each leg is equipped with two claws for climbing on rough bark and a pad (arolium) between these to hold onto smooth leaves. They can even climb glass. |

Life History

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| Habitat: | The stick insect in this picture is found in tropical rainforests of northern Queensland. It lives on trees. |
| Life Cycle: | The female lays her eggs by flicking them away from where she hangs on the tree. The eggs fall onto the forest floor where it may take several months for the young to emerge. The young are green and look very similar to their parents. They change colour to brown as they feed on leaves. As they grow larger they shed their exoskeleton many times. (hard skin) |
| Diet: | Stick insects are leaf eaters. <i>Acrophylla wuelfingi</i> eats gum leaves and many types of rainforest plants. |
| More Facts: | Stick insects are masters of camouflage. They hide by pretending to be a stick, twig or leaf. Not only do they look like a plant but they also move like a plant by swaying from side to side like a plant in the wind. |

