

Razor Grinder Cicada

Henicopsaltria eydouxii



Adaptation to environment

- Females lay batches of eggs in slits on tree trunks & nymphs feed on sap from roots of eucalyptus; adults emerge & feed on sap from tree trunks
- Males sing loudly to attract females & can be heard up to a kilometre away
- Suck sap through a rostrum which is like a drinking straw with two tubes, one for saliva going down & one for sap coming up
- As well as two compound eyes, has extra three small eyes that detect direction of light & help in flight.

Feeding relationships

Where do I live? Woodland

What do I eat?

- Nymphs use their piercing mouthparts to suck sap from eucalyptus roots
- Adults suck sap from trees; sap is low in nutrients so gut filters out large molecules; water & simple sugars are voided
- When cicadas are in large numbers fine “cicada rain” falls.

What eats me?

- Bandicoots dig up nymphs
- Birds, bats, gliders, spiders, lizards eat adults.
- Cicada killer Wasps use cicadas to feed larvae.

- Length 35 – 42 mm • Forewing 50 – 55 mm • “Metal grinding” sound • Forms huge groups whose combined sound can be painful to the ear & drive other animals away.