

## Spiny Leaf Insect

*Extatosoma tiaratum*



## Adaptation to environment

- Their leaf-like appearance & still posture make them very difficult to spot amongst trees
- Females constantly lay eggs, each egg is flicked & may travel several metres to increase distribution
- Eggs are hard & look like seeds, for protection & camouflage.

## Feeding relationships

Where do I live?  Woodland

### What do I eat?

- Leaves of many types of shrubs & trees.

### What eats me?

- Birds, small mammals
- Ants & other insects prey on eggs & small nymphs.

- Length 16 cm • Female is fat, spiny, wingless; hangs upside down with tail curved over back; she is able to produce around 500 eggs in her lifetime, which are dropped on forest floor • Male is much more slender & has long wings.