

*Where can I find fireflies in Australia?*

Australian fireflies are all flashing fireflies – both males and females can produce light which is used so the sexes can find each other for mating. Their immature stages, called larvae, are also capable of producing a light, which is not flashed but will often be turned off if you are treading nearby.

If you look at this website <https://lesleyballantyne.com/> you will find more information and pictures of most of our species.

They occur mainly along the eastern seaboard of Australia from Cape York Peninsula to as far south as Kangaroo Valley in NSW. This is a discontinuous pattern that parallels for the most part regions of rainforest, wet sclerophyll forest and mangroves. There are many records of fireflies from the northern part of the northern Territory, where they seem to occur mainly in association with bodies of water. It seems that there are a few unpublished records of fireflies in north western WA, but thus far we don't know anything about their environment. There are no fireflies south of Kangaroo valley, and none in Victoria, South Australia, or Tasmania.

Their larvae (see Guide about life cycles) feed on small snails and slugs and earthworms which live in moist leaf litter, so their distribution is tied to the incidence of areas that have abundant sources of the larval food..

We are hoping through this Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/firefliesofaustralia> to discover many more areas where fireflies might be found. Some are spread over wide areas when you only see a couple of specimens at the one time. Others, especially if they have females that can't fly, will be restricted to quite small areas and these are the ones that might emerge all together in very large numbers and create such wonderful displays.