

How to get your specimen identified

Lesley Ballantyne can identify fireflies for you. Check out her website: lesleyballantyne.com/australian-fireflies for more information about our various species. Contact Lesley through her website. Also it's really useful to post clear top (dorsal) and underside (ventral) images of any fireflies you find to iNaturalist. Set up a free account: inaturalist.ala.org.au

Take a picture!

If you can take a picture of the top side, and the undersurface too
hint: get a glass and pop it over the firefly which will then crawl up the sides, giving you a nice view of its light organs and the potential for a shot that is otherwise a bit hard to get. If you post the pictures on our Facebook site then it helps if you tell us something about the environment in which they were found.

You can send your specimen to me. Place it in some methylated spirits in the smallest tube you can find; wrap the tube securely in Glad Wrap to prevent leakage; pack in the smallest container you can find with enough material surrounding it (like polystyrene chunks or beads) to prevent breakage, and post to me. I suggest the post office is often a really good source of information about packaging.

Message me and I will tell you where to send it. Your specimen will be retubed with labels indicating the information you gave me, and deposited in the Australian National Insect Collection in Canberra.