



# THE LINNEAN SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES



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## FREE PUBLIC LECTURE Wednesday 24 May 2017

6 pm in the Classroom, Royal Botanic Garden, Sydney.  
Light refreshments will be served from 5.30 pm. Everyone welcome.

### Dr Dan Bickel

Australian Museum Research Institute

### “TEARS OF THE GODS” - THE HISTORY AND SCIENCE OF AMBER

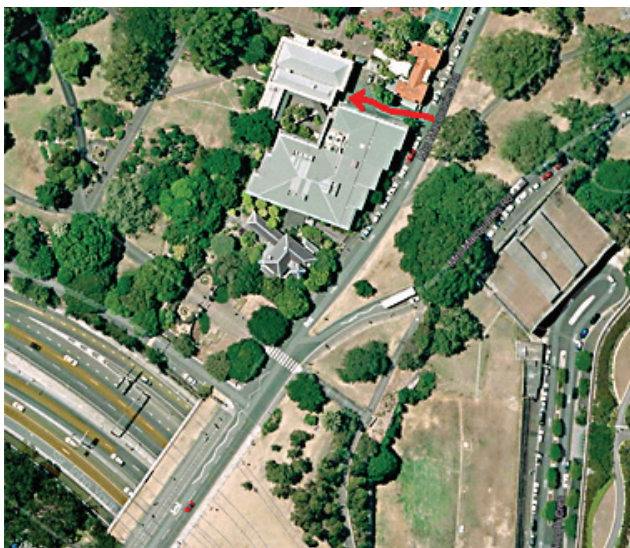
Amber has fascinated people since prehistoric times and has long been traded from sources along the Baltic Sea. As well as being admired and used in jewellery, amber is of great scientific interest as it provides a clear window to past life. Being the hardened and fossilized resin of ancient trees, amber frequently contains inclusions of trapped animals and plants, where tiny insects and delicate floral structures can be seen in exquisite detail. Amber therefore is a great source of information about both the evolution and distribution of major biotic groups and past environments generally.

Within the last 20 years, significant amber deposits have been discovered in Australia. These include Cape York amber, washed up on remote beaches, and Cretaceous and Paleocene deposits from Victoria and Tasmania. This talk will review the history, occurrence and study of amber.



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A Cape York Amber Fly, beautifully preserved in amber. It belongs to a genus that occurs in modern Australia. This fly was described by Dr Dan Bickel. It is the first species to be described from Cape York amber, Australia's newly discovered and only significant amber deposit, from the coast of far north Queensland.



Enter through the gate to the Herbarium Carpark, on Mrs Macquaries Road. For Security reasons, there is now a locked gate between the carpark and the Classroom. If it is locked when you come to a lecture, just wait there, and someone will come and let you in.