

Application Example: 3D Scanning

3D Scanning for digital archiving – Lorde Howe Island stick insect

Measuring Systems: ATOS Core 80

Keywords: 3D Scanning, Digital archiving, Preservation

The Lorde Howe Island stick insect (also known as the “land lobster”) is a large, flightless stick insect that was previously thought to be extinct. As the name would suggest this nocturnal creature is known only from the volcanic island situated 800 km north east of Sydney in the Tasman Sea. In the 1950’s the insect was thought to be extinct due to predation by non-native black rats, however in 2001 researchers discovered several surviving adults. Today around 30 adult stick insects remain in their natural habitat and the species is recognized as being “critically endangered”.

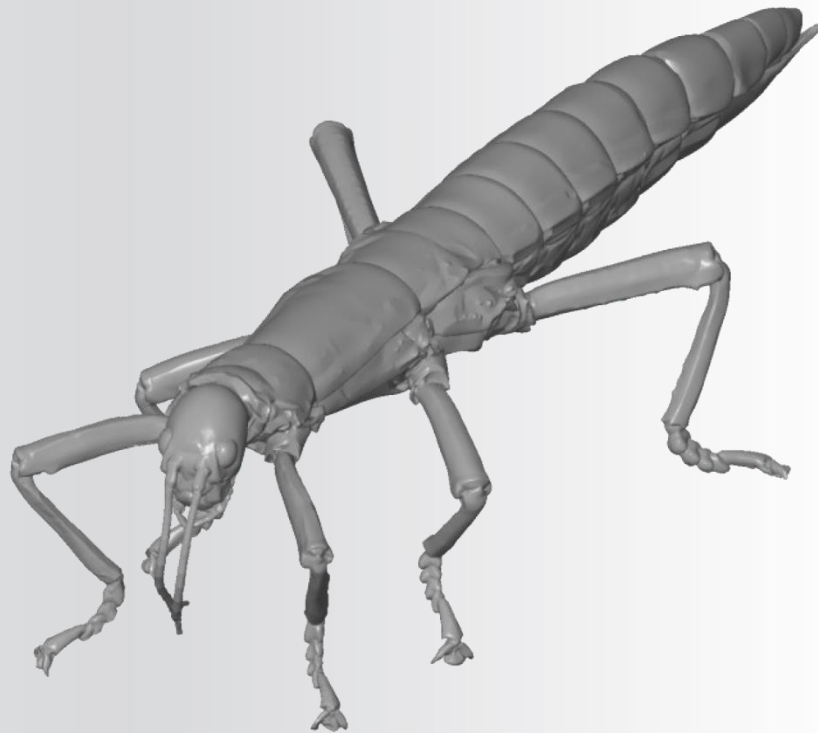


Male Lord Howe Stick Insect



Female Lord Howe Stick Insect

Scan-Xpress was contacted by an entomologist to digitally capture the geometry of one such insect so that it could be archived. Since it is illegal to kill an endangered species the customer had to wait until one died of natural causes, at which point the insect was quickly transported to the Melbourne-based scanning studio where digitizing immediately began.



Isometric view of completed scan

It was important to complete to the project quickly since after death the abdomen deflates and the legs are prone to falling off. In this instance only three of the legs were provided for scanning so digital duplicates were created and attached to the body. The finished scanning result immortalizes the physical form and shape of an insect on the brink of extinction.

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EXCELLENCE IN 3D MEASUREMENT

Top, bottom, side, front and rear views of the completed scan are shown below:

