



## Tree Lobster

The *Dryococelus australis* (commonly known as *tree lobster*) is thought to be the rarest insect in the world, with a population of less than 100 individuals. This species of **stick insect** living on the **Lord Howe Island** group (Australia) became **extinct** in its original habitat in 1920 because of the introduction of **mice** on the island. Much to everybody's surprise, a group of 24 individuals was rediscovered in 2001 in a bush on **Ball's Pyramid\***, a **skerry** lying 20 kilometres southeast of Lord Howe Island. Subsequent to this discovery, two pairs were brought to mainland Australia, and new individuals have been bred with a view to reintroducing them to Lord Howe Island.

\* For further details, see the Landmark of the month



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