

Leichhardt's Grasshopper

Use the information below to answer questions about the Leichhardt's Grasshopper found only in Kakadu.

The Leichhardt's grasshopper is native to tropical northern Australia and found only in Kakadu. Named after Ludwig Leichhardt, a German explorer and naturalist. It is bright orange with significant blue patches on its head and thorax and black or very dark blue dappled spots on its abdomen.

Living for just 1 year, the Leichhardt Grasshopper scares off potential predators with a chemical defence. When insects feel threatened, they release a smelly brown substance that tastes awful to any animals wanting to eat them. Appearing in greater numbers every year in October or Dalirrgang to coincide with the build-up and first rains of the monsoon season they are called 'alyurr' by Kundjeyhmi speakers of Arnhemland. Traditionally they are known as the children of the Namarrkon lightning man, a powerful creation ancestor, to whom they call out and he answers them with storms and lightning.

1. After which explorer are the grasshoppers named?

2. What colours are the Leichhardt Grasshopper?

3. How long do the grasshoppers live for?

4. When can they be found most easily?

5. What do Australia's First Nations Peoples believe the grasshopper's call represents?

English: ACELY1703 - Use comprehension strategies to analyse information.