

Attracting wildlife into your garden



URANIIDAE *Alcides metaurus*, commonly known as the Zodiac Moth.

This stunning beauty could easily be in your backyard.

Alcides metaurus is a very large and conspicuous day-time flying moth. It can be seen in the Regional Forest and around the Administration Building of the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens. The larva feeds on Euphorbiaceous vines or trees.

Growing the Alcides metaurus (North Queensland Day Moth/ Zodiac Moth) plant food will help preserve a threatened plant: Tree Omphalea.

Omphalea celata is something of a curiosity in that it is only Queensland and nowhere else in the world. Previously, it was thought to be a species of Candle Nut (*Aleurites* sp.) The other two Australian *Omphalea* species are both large woody vines (lianes). Tree *Omphalea* has soft drooping foliage, large fruit and marbled seeds that germinate readily. A water wise plant that stores water in its fat fleshy carrot shaped roots, it is easy to grow in sandy, rocky and shallow soils.



Tree Omphalea is the favoured food plant of the Zodiac Moth's caterpillar... plant one in your garden so this moth can visit and lay her eggs. Beware though as the caterpillars eat lots of leaves.

For more information about growing plants to attract wildlife to your garden, pick up a brochure from the Mackay Regional Botanic Gardens.