

The Hidden World

Colours of Life and Death



Celebrating Life Hidden in Full View

Leigh Kemp

Hidden World Dedication

Many have experienced the moment – it is a beautiful day, the spirits are high and life is perfect. And then it happens, a light brushing on the lips– and the moment of realization that it is nothing romantic.

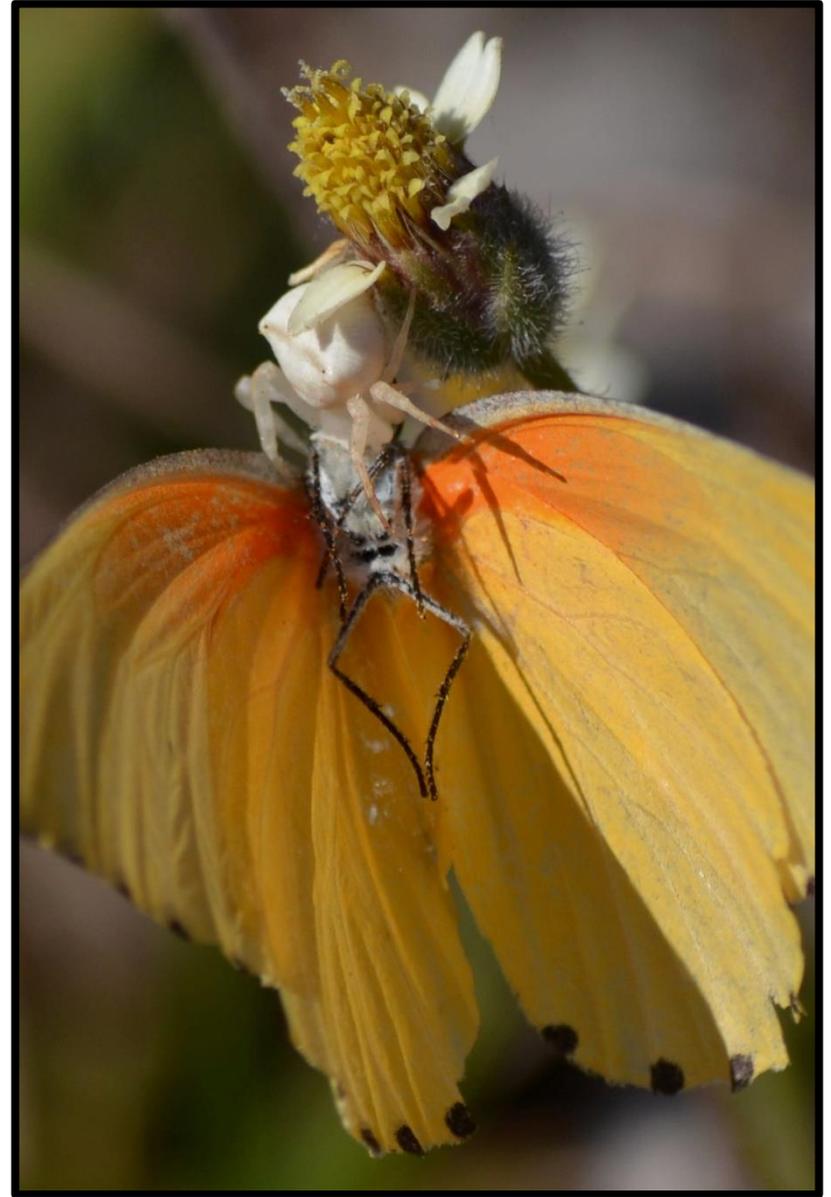
A fly lands on your lip and you just know that it has come from a place you do not want to imagine. The human psyche is programmed to believe the worst – and the spitting begins. Hidden World is dedicated to those who have experienced a fly on the lip,

Hidden world is dedicated to those who have lain awake at night following the persistent drone-wheeze of a mosquito and to those who have recoiled in horror at bed bugs and head lice. Hidden world is dedicated to those who have reached for the insect-killing spray to rid their spaces of the perceived irritation of bugs.

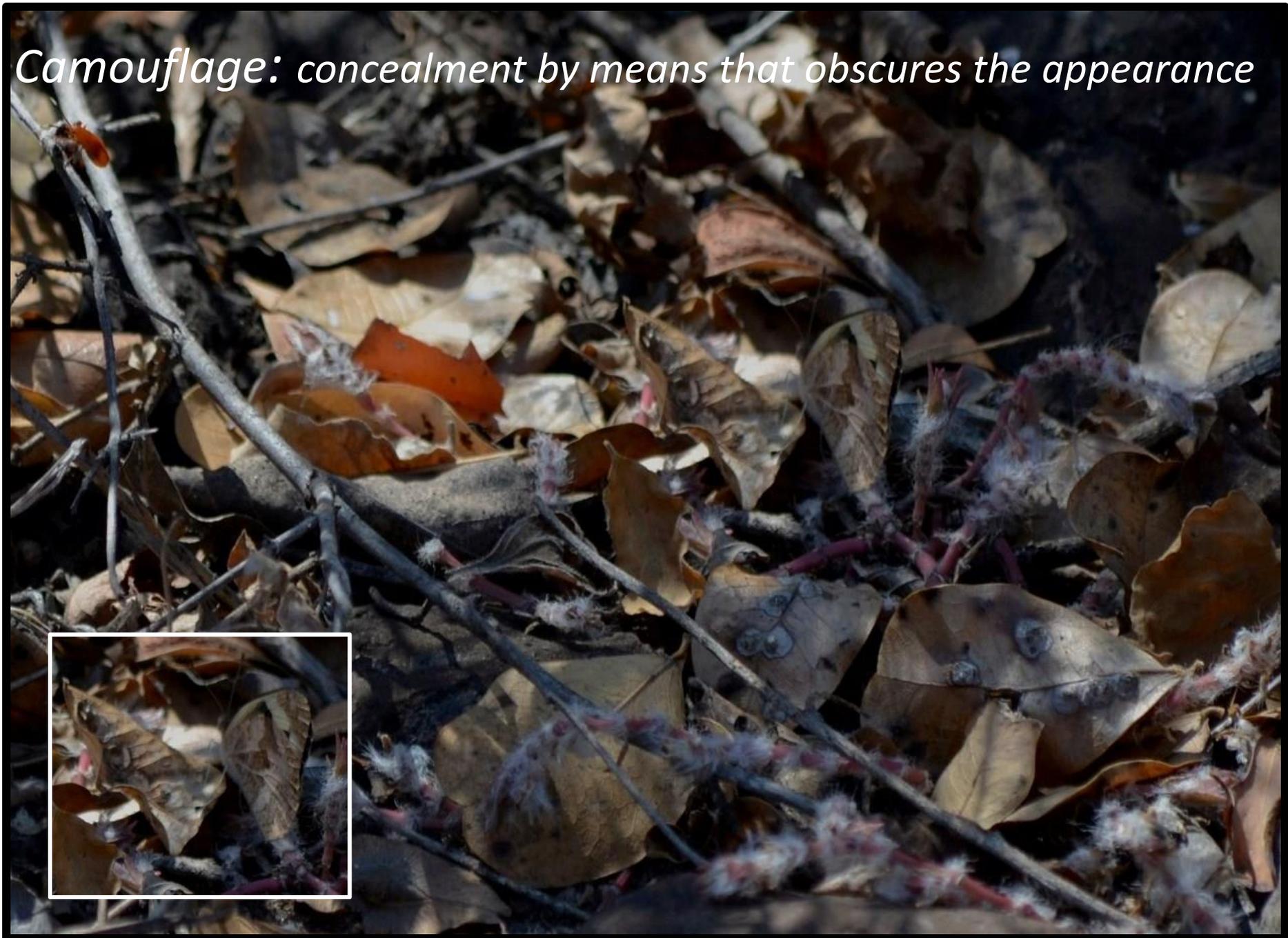
Hidden world is also dedicated to those who find a fascination and beauty in ‘bugs’, those who celebrate the diversity, the colours and the dramas associated with the insect world, a world that is hidden in full view of most people.

Lastly, Hidden World is dedicated to the entomologists who dedicate their lives to the study of insects, a field most humans deem insignificant, but in truth a field that is one of the most important to humanity and the survival of our species.

Images from the Hidden World



Camouflage: concealment by means that obscures the appearance



Colours of camouflage



Patterns of the Night



Creatures of the Night Patterns



The Mating Game – Scenting and Aerial Manoeuvres





Of Carnage and Survival of the Species



Coinciding mostly with the first rains of the season, there is a stirring deep within termite colonies. It is an ancient stirring, a calling from a time of the beginning of species on land.

Individuals that have waited their time in the confines of the colony, are released into the outside world, a world where the struggle to survive is greater than most other species face.

It is one of the miracles of the African wilderness.

The individuals that leave the colony, male and females, do so to start new colonies.

Most will fall victim to predators.



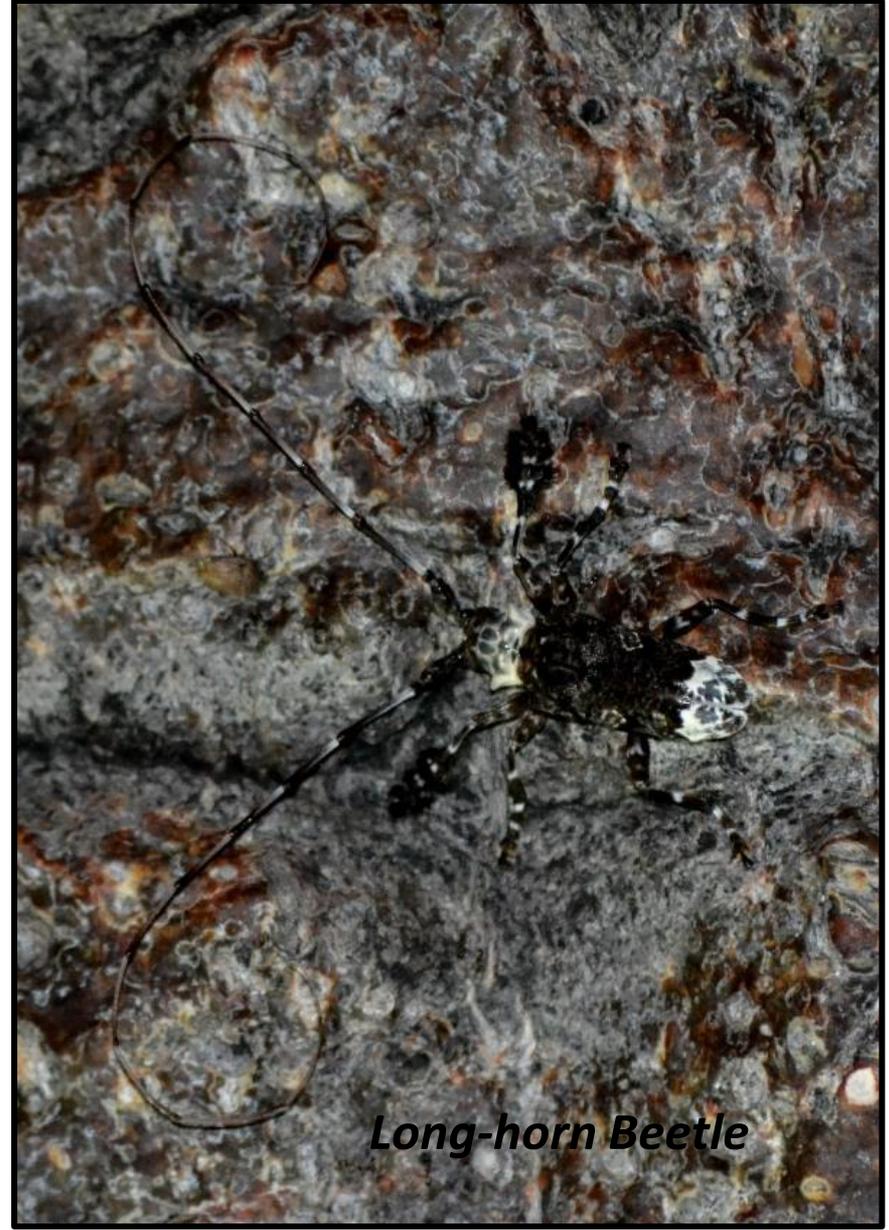
Birds, mammals, insects and man are among the predators, feasting on the seasonal bounty.

The race for the termites is to pair off, the female sending out pheromonic signals to attract a male, and to excavate a nest as quickly as possible.

It is a time of carnage, but also a time when the ancient cycle of life is completed into new beginnings, and a continuation of termite species.



Denizens of the Baobab



Hawk-moths Feeding on Baobab Flower



In the cacophonous silence

Pause into the deep silence
listen
and in a moment
you will sense
the presence
whispers
barely audible
above the breeze
minute creatures
myriads
foraging
hunting
seeking solace
surviving
a cacophony of sound
deafening in the silence



Deadly Beauty – Mantid nymphs mimic flowers,
not for protection but rather to attract prey



The Hidden World coming soon



- The Hidden World is a product of studying and photographing insects during my years of guiding and from wanderings in my free time