



# Monaro Timber News

The monthly newsletter for people who love timber



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## Welcome back.

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2010. Please keep in mind that we don't resume trading until January 11th this year, which is, as I write this, still one week away. I've had a few newsletters hit the stands a little late in 2009 so the new years resolution is to get them out on time. Hopefully I stick to that this year. 2010 promises to be an exciting year for Monaro Timber. I must say last year was pretty full on with the move to Queanbeyan but this year will be busy for us getting the place in order and improving our business. Look forward to a greater range of products and services available from Monaro Timber over the coming months.

Here are a few new items added to the range recently.

**Polycure** water based floor coatings.

**Mr Clean** products including the Power Dusting Mop for keeping your floors clean, the Power Dusting Mitt and Cloths for all your other dusting needs. Made using microfibre technology the Mr Clean range will really grab those dust particles and remove them.

**Organoil Wash- A -Way** timber cleaner. This stuff will prepare your decking ready for oiling. It also has many other cleaning uses and because it's from Organoil it's genuinely safe to use and easy on the environment.

**Castor Cups.** Protect your timber floor from scratches and bruising caused by the legs on your furniture. A cheap bit of insurance to protect your investment.

**Marine Ply.** We have always been able to source the Hoop Pine marine ply but we can now offer hardwood marine ply manufactured to the British Standard. This exceptionally tidy plywood uses a red / brown hardwood face giving a high quality appearance. It is available in a range of thicknesses in standard sheet sizes.

## New Glue.

Spiders are remarkable animals: with over 40,000 classified species, they are among the most diverse known to man and can adapt to the most radical climatic conditions. The silky substance they produce to spin webs has been extensively studied and is known to rival steel in strength.

A less-known fact, however, is that the "glue" that holds it all together is just as remarkable, and could soon become the key to producing stronger bioadhesives to replace petroleum-based products. Supported by the National Science Foundation, a team led by Omer Choresh from the University of Wyoming has in fact recently reported on an extensive study involving the DNA sequencing of the orb-weaving spiders *Nephila clavipes* and *Araneus gemmoides*. The group identified two sophisticated proteins that have evolved over millions of years and are believed to be responsible for the glue's strength. The team extracted m-RNA - a type of RNA cell containing the chemical blueprint for a protein - from the glue-secreting glans of the spiders, and created a complementary DNA sequence to identify what genes were responsible for the creation of the glue.

By doing so, the researchers were able to isolate two distinct but functionally related genes that were encoded on the spider's genome in an unusual way, using both strands of an identical DNA sequence. Each of these genes is responsible for the formation of a protein, and these two proteins are in turn the building blocks of the sticky glycoprotein that binds the web's threads together.

The next step will be to clone the two genes and employ them in bacterial cell cultures to obtain large-scale production of the glycoprotein. This will allow us to develop a new biobased glue for a variety of purposes, including stronger surgical adhesives. A report on the study was published in the October issue of the monthly journal ACS Biomacromolecules.

Source: *Gizmag*

That's all for this month. Have a great 2010.

Regards

*Shaun*

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