Lycomimus, a new genus of Australian Ptilodactylidae (Coleoptera: Byrrhoidea)

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Abstract

A new genus of Ptilodactylidae, Lycomimus gen. n., based on L. bejsaki sp. n. from northern New South Wales and southern Queensland, Australia, is described. The genus is compared with other known ptilodactylid genera, and a key is provided to the genera occurring in Australia.

Key words: Ptilodactylidae, Anchytarsinae, Australia, Lycomimus

Introduction

Australian members of the family Ptilodactylidae are relatively uncommon in collections, although larvae are sometimes taken in numbers from aquatic or riparian habitats. Described Australian ptilodactylids include a few species of Byrrocryptus Broun (Lawrence 1987), also known from New Zealand, and the North Queensland Austrolilhas monteithi Lawrence & Stribling (1992), but undescribed species of Ptilodactyla Illiger and Pherocladius Fairmaire (Delève 1972), have been seen primarily from North Queensland. More than 20 years ago a specimen of a new ptilodactylid genus and species, with coloration typical of a lycid mimic, were brought to the attention of one of us, and a few other specimens have been discovered subsequently. This new genus and species is described below.

Habitus and wing images were generated with BK Plus Lab System by Visionary Digital (USA); dissected parts were photographed in open glycerol slides using Micropublisher 5 digital camera mounted on a Leica M205C microscope. All images were edited with Adobe Photoshop.

The following abbreviations are used for institutions housing type specimens: ANIC—Australian National Insect Collection, CSIRO Ecosystem Sciences, Canberra, ACT, Australia; QMB—The Queensland Museum, Brisbane, QLD.

Lycomimus gen. n.

Type species: Lycomimus bejsaki sp. n.

Diagnosis: This new genus is easily distinguished from members of the subfamily Cladotominae, including the Australian Austrolilhas Lawrence & Stribling and several exotic genera such as Cladotoma Westwood, Paralilhas White and Drupeus Lewis, by the 1) slightly transverse labrum, 2) distinct mandibular mola, 3) relatively broad galea and lacinia densely clothed with short, hooked, spine-like setae, 4) uninflected pronotum with incomplete lateral carinae, 5) unexcavated prosternum and 6) presence of gonostyli. It differs from members of the Ptilodactylinae, including Ptilodactyla, Pherocladius and a number of New World genera, such as Chaetodactyla Champion, Lachnodactyla Champion and Lomechon Wasmann, by the 1) non-articulated antennal rami in the male, 2) lacinia and galea of about equal width, 3) exposed proterochitins, 4) medial field of the hind wing with 5 free veins and a wedge cell, 5) simple pretarsal claws, 6) sternite IX in the male