Zootaxa 3981 (3): 301–359
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

Article

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
ZOOTAXA
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3981.3.1
http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:34F39733-E55C-4695-8749-E6811F675740

Australian Marsh Beetles (Coleoptera: Scirtidae). 7. Genus *Nothocyphon*, new genus

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Accepted by M. Gimmel: 11 Jun. 2015; published: 6 Jul. 2015

Abstract

The new genus *Nothocyphon* (type species: *Helodes (Cyphon ?) lindensis* Blackburn, 1892) is proposed for small *Contacyphon*-like Australian beetles. The included species exhibit a generalized body structure, lacking the derived character expressions of related genera. Male tergite 9 is very weakly developed, membranous and bare. This is derived but as a reduction only weakly supports the monophyly of *Nothocyphon.*

The new genus includes 39 species, with 37 newly described herein: *Nothocyphon alces*, **n. sp.**, *N. amita*, **n. sp.**, *N. amphora*, **n. sp.**, *N. armatus*, **n. sp.**, *N. armstrongi*, **n. sp.**, *N. auritus*, **n. sp.**, *N. banksiae*, **n. sp.**, *N. biserratus*, **n. sp.**, *N. brevihamatus*, **n. sp.**, *N. crux*, **n. sp.**, *N. denticulatus,* **n. sp.**, *N. donnabuangi*, **n. sp.**, *N. esau*, **n. sp.**, *N. frater* (Blackburn), **n. comb.**, *N. horridus*, **n. sp.**, *N. imitator*, **n. sp.**, *N. isolaeregis*, **n. sp.**, *N. lanceolatus*, **n. sp.**, *N. lindensis* (Blackburn), **n. comb.**, *N. multidentatus*, **n. sp.**, *N. naso,* **n. sp.**, *N. nungatta*, **n. sp.**, *N. pacificus*, **n. sp.**, *N. patruelis*, **n. sp.**, *N. platyphallus*, **n. sp.**, *N. plicatus*, **n. sp.**, *N. radula*, **n. sp.**, *N. sarcophilus*, **n. sp.**, *N. scutiger*, **n. sp.**, *N. serratipenis*, **n. sp.**, *N. signatus*, **n. sp.**, *N. soror*, **n. sp.**, *N. taeniatus*, **n. sp.**, *N. taurus*, **n. sp.**, *N. thylacinus*, **n. sp.**, *N. triangulum*, **n. sp.**, *N. vandiemeni*, **n. sp.**, *N. wattsi*, **n. sp.**, *N. ypsilon*, **n. sp.**

Lectotypes are designated for *N. frater* (Blackburn) and *N. lindensis* (Blackburn). All species are redescribed or described, and illustrated. Several informal species groups are recognized, and identification keys to males are provided.

Key words: taxonomy, redescription, description, new species

Introduction

There are many small Australian marsh beetles whose habitus resembles the genus *Contacyphon* Gozis, mainly by the transverse head which is more or less embraced by the distinct or even projecting front angles of the pronotum. The genus was long known under the invalid name, *Cyphon* Paykull (Zwick *et al.* 2013) for example, entries in the generic key in Watts (2011). However, only a few Australian species actually belong to *Contacyphon* (Zwick 2013b). Most Australian species belong to several other genera that can be identified by derived characters of head structure, thoracic sternites, connate abdominal sternites, and other probable apomorphies (e.g., *Calvarium* Pic, *Nanocyphon* Zwick, *Pachycyphon* Zwick). Character state assessments are tentative, the basic scirtid body structure, the groundplan, still needs to be recognized. The male genitalia which Nyholm studied comparatively across the family (1969, 1972) are an exception. For example, a characteristic transformation of parameroids and trigonium is shared by many species assigned to the genera *Austrocyphon* Zwick and *Tasmanocyphon* Zwick. These two genera have a relatively well developed tergite 9 (T9) which may seem plesiomorphic. However, their T9 is structurally modified.

Numbers of additional species remain that exhibit neither a characteristic overall body structure nor male terminalia that deviate from the groundplan of the *Microcara*-line (Nyholm 1972) in structure or components present. Males share a tergite 9 with well developed apodemes but a strongly reduced membranous plate. Individual species can be identified from differences in the shape of penis, tegmen and parameres. To be able to