

***Limnebius acupunctus*, a new species of water beetle from Australia and Papua New Guinea (Coleoptera: Hydraenidae)**

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Abstract

Limnebius acupunctus, new species, is described, based on a study of 2,013 specimens. This is the first species of the genus to be described from Australia and Papua New Guinea. The wide geographical distribution of the species is mapped, together with illustrations of aedeagal variation. High resolution digital images of the holotype are presented.

Key words: Coleoptera, Hydraenidae, *Limnebius acupunctus*, new species, Australia, Papua New Guinea, aquatic insects, holotype digital images

Introduction

The aquatic beetle genus *Limnebius* is nearly cosmopolitan, with most species being north temperate in distribution (e.g., Perkins 1980, 1997; Hansen 1998). The first species to be known from Australia and Papua New Guinea, *L. acupunctus*, is described herein. This study, which is part of a comprehensive revision of the Hydraenidae of Australia and Papua New Guinea, is based on the examination of 2,013 specimens of *Limnebius* taken during 121 collecting events/localities.

Distribution, Origin, and Microhabitats

Limnebius acupunctus n. sp. is currently known from Australia and Papua New Guinea. In Australia it has been collected in many localities in the east, and a scattering of localities in the west, north and central regions (Fig. 5). The distribution of *L. acupunctus* in both Australia and Papua New Guinea is in contrast to most hydraenids from this region. To date I have identified and databased a total of 24,849 specimens representing 280 species of