

## ***Dinotoperla walkeri* sp. nov. (Plecoptera: Gripopterygidae), a brachypterous stonefly from western Victoria, Australia**

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### **Abstract**

A new brachypterous species of stonefly (*Dinotoperla walkeri* sp. nov.) is described from Hopkins Falls in western Victoria. The species is large compared to other species of the genus, and the robust nymph is adapted to live on or under boulders in fast currents. Such conditions appear not to occur elsewhere in the region of the type locality, and it is speculated that brachyptery may be an adaptation which ensures that adults do not disperse away from the nymphal habitat.

**Key words:** Stonefly, *Dinotoperla*, Australia, new species, brachyptery

### **Introduction**

Taxonomy of the stonefly genus *Dinotoperla* Tillyard in south-eastern Australia has been extensively studied (McLellan 1971; Hynes 1974, 1982; Theischinger 1982; Yule 1984; Theischinger & Cardale 1987; Suter & Bishop 1990). In their guide to the adults of the Australian stoneflies, Theischinger & Cardale (1987) provided illustrations of the genitalia of described species, and also figured undescribed species which were held in various collections. They recognised eight species of the genus from the state of Victoria, all of which were formally described.

The Environment Protection Authority of Victoria in 1993 commenced extensive macroinvertebrate surveys of the rivers and streams of Victoria. During the course of this work, nymphs of a species of *Dinotoperla* which could not be identified were collected from a single site in western Victoria. In spring 2004 the site was visited with the specific aim of collecting or rearing of adults. The material collected is described below.