



Three new species of Cleradini from Australia (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Rhyparochromidae)

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Abstract

Neoclerada parainsulicola sp. nov., *Paramahisa kununurraensis* sp. nov., and *Laticlerada tasmanica* sp. nov., have been described and illustrated. Cleradini are generally found in tropical habitats; the first two new species are described from tropical northern Australia, whereas the last species is the first record of Cleradini for cool temperate Tasmania.

Key words: Taxonomy, new taxa, descriptions, diagnoses, distribution, Tasmania

Introduction

A taxonomic revision of Australian Cleradini (family Rhyparochromidae, formerly Lygaeidae) was conducted by Malipatil (1981), who subsequently reviewed the world Cleradini and provided a cladistic analysis of relationships within the tribe (Malipatil 1983). Since then no new Australian species have been described (see also Slater & O'Donnell 1995; Cassis & Gross 2002). However, one new name, *Laticlerada nidicolloides* Slater & O'Donnell, 1995, was published for Horváth's (1909) male *Clerada laticollis* after Bergroth's (1914) *Clerada nidicola* was synonymised by Malipatil (1981) with Horváth's female *Clerada laticollis*. Horváth's type series comprised two species.

Among the further specimens that have now become available, three undescribed species, *Neoclerada parainsulicola* sp. nov., *Paramahisa kununurraensis* sp. nov., and *Laticlerada tasmanica* sp. nov. have been discovered and are described in this paper; the last mentioned species is the first record of Cleradini for cool temperate Tasmania. Two of the three species described in this paper have been based on single specimens, and it is to be hoped that this will prompt the discovery of further specimens of these predominantly tropical (Malipatil 1983) and almost exclusively mammal-nest associated bugs (Sweet 1967).

The present contribution brings the total number of cleradine species known from Australia to 26 in six genera.

Materials and methods

Details of male and female genitalia dissection methods and terminologies used in this article are those given in Malipatil (1978). Measurements are expressed in millimetres.

Composite automontage images of all habitus and other details of the body and genitalia characters were obtained with a M205C Leica microscope and camera using the Leica Application Suite software (version 3.4.0).

Repositories of specimens examined in this study: MV, Museum Victoria, Melbourne; TM, Tasmanian Museum, Hobart; VAIC, Victorian Agricultural Insect Collection, Department of Primary Industries, Knoxfield / Bundoora.