



The genus *Albia* Thon from Australia, with the description of two new species (Acari: Hydrachidia: Aturidae)

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Abstract

Two new *Albia* species are described from Australia, *A. ironicus* n. sp. and *A. yorkensis* n. sp.. *Albia brokenensis* Smit is synonymized with *A. australica* Cook. The female of *A. longipalpis* Wiles is described for the first time. Many new records are given of the genus *Albia* from Australia.

Key words: Hydrachnidia, Aturidae, *Albia*, new species, new records, Australia

Introduction

The genus *Albia* Thon, 1899 has a cosmopolitan distribution, with 45 species known worldwide (K.O. Viets 1986; Wiles 1992, 1999; Smit & Van der Hammen 1992; Smit 1992, 1996a,b). Worldwide four subgenera are known, i.e. *Albia*, *Dentalbia* Cook, 1974, *Spinalbia* Cook, 1974 and *Albiella* Lundblad, 1971. Within Australia, only *Albiella* and *Spinalbia* are found.

The majority of the species is found in the Oriental and Australasian regions. From the Oriental region 14 species are known, from Australia five species (one shared with the Oriental region) and from New Guinea nine. The known species from Australia are *A. australica* Cook, 1986 (Queensland and New South Wales), *A. lundbladi* Cook, 1986 (Queensland and New South Wales), *A. rectifrons* K. Viets, 1935 (every state and territory except South Australia), *A. brokenensis* Smit, 1992 (Queensland) and *A. rubicunda* Smit, 1996 (Northern Territory). The distribution data are taken from Harvey (1998).

Most *Albia* specimens are found in low numbers in flowing waters, often in pools of streams. According to Wiles (1992) in slow flowing streams they aggregate in pools where detritus collects, but are usually absent in muddy areas. Some species are found in lakes.

Materials and methods

Unless stated otherwise, all material has been collected by the author. The type material will be lodged in the Queensland Museum, Brisbane, all non-type material in the Netherlands Centre for Biodiversity Naturalis, Leiden. Numbers are given as males/females/deutonymphs. The following abbreviations have been used: PI-PV = palp segment 1–5; D1–D4 = dorsoglandularia 1–4; L1 = lateroglandularium 1; Cxgl4 = coxoglandularium 4; Cx-1 = coxa 1; I-leg-4-6 = fourth-sixth segments of first leg; asl = above sea level; NP = National Park; QM = Queensland Museum, Brisbane; RMNH = Netherlands Centre for Biodiversity Naturalis, Leiden. Numbering of the glandularia follows Wiles (1997). All measurements are in μm , measurements of palp and leg segments are of the dorsal margins. Coordinates were obtained with a GPS. When no measurements were made or were not possible, coordinates are derived from Google Earth (given as degrees, minutes and seconds).