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Ctenarytaina bipartita sp. n. (Hemiptera, Psylloidea), a new eucalypt psyllid from Southeast Australia

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Abstract

Ctenarytaina bipartita sp.n., associated with *Eucalyptus kitsoniana* and *E. viminalis*, is described from the Australian Capital Territory, New South Wales, Tasmania and Victoria. It differs from other described *Ctenarytaina* species in the paramere which bears a small posterior lobe. Taxonomically relevant morphological details are illustrated and the species is diagnosed from other eucalypt inhabiting congeners. Information on the biology is also given. *C. bipartita* has the potential to become an exported pest species to countries with significant eucalypt plantations.

Key words: Sternorrhyncha, Spondyliaspidae, Australia, systematics, morphology, distribution

Introduction

Eucalypts are a dominant feature of the Australian flora with 700–900 recognised species (Brooker 2000; EUCLID 2006). Associated with eucalypts is a rich insect fauna among which are the jumping plant-lice or Psylloidea, a superfamily of Sternorrhyncha. Psyllids are generally very host-specific with respect to their larval host plants. A major part of the described Australian psyllid fauna belongs to the Spondyliaspidae with 24 genera which are almost exclusively native to the Australian continent and most are restricted to hosts in the Myrtaceae. The subfamily displays a wide range of life strategies such as lerp builders, gall inducers, shoot feeders and inquiline in vacated lerps (Hollis 2004). Among the spondyliaspines, two genera are notable for their distribution and host associations: *Ctenarytaina* comprising native species in and outside Australia, associated with Myrtaceae and several unrelated plant families (Hodkinson 1983; Fang 1990; Hollis 2004; Henderson *et al.* 2010), and *Eurhinocola*, a monotypic genus which appears to be very close to *Ctenarytaina* (Hodkinson 1986).

Ctenarytaina contains 15 described species native to Australia (Hollis 2004), New Zealand (Henderson *et al.* 2010), the Pacific (Hodkinson 1983), Taiwan (Fang 1990) and China (Li 2011; Burckhardt & Ouvrard 2012) as well as three species currently misplaced in other genera (Hodkinson 1986; Burckhardt unpubl.). *C. peregrina* from *Eucalyptus parvula* is known only from the UK, Eire (Hodkinson 2007) and Germany (NHMB, unpublished data) but is likely to originate from Australia. According to Taylor (1997) *Ctenarytaina* is one of the largest psyllid genera colonising eucalypt hosts in Australia, though with only four described species the eucalypt-feeding members are surprisingly poorly known. Two additional species are known from Australia associated with *Lophostemon* and *Boronia*, respectively (Hollis 2004). Four of the six recorded Australian *Ctenarytaina* spp. have been introduced into other countries where *C. eucalypti* and *C. spatulata* in particular constitute important eucalypt pests (Hollis 2004; Santana & Burckhardt 2007; Queiroz *et al.* 2012). Henderson *et al.* (2010) recorded seven described and three undescribed species from New Zealand. In the collections of the BMNH, MHNG and NHMB at least six additional undescribed species are represented from Australian eucalypts, and 20 from other hosts from Australia, Southeast Asia and Africa.