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New species of *Drymopsalta* Heath Cicadas (Cicadidae: Cicadettinae: Cicadettini) from Queensland and Northern Territory, Australia, with overview of genus

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Abstract

Three new species are described in the genus *Drymopsalta* Ewart, previously known only from *D. crepitum* Ewart and *D. daemeli* Distant. The three new species occur in Southern Queensland and Northern Territory. *D. wallumi* sp. nov. occurs along coastal S.E. Queensland, whereas *D. hobsoni* sp. nov. is restricted to the Bringalily State Forest, near Inglewood, southern inland Queensland. *D. acrotela* sp. nov. is found in the Litchfield National Park and other locations near Jabaluka, Cahills Crossing, E. Alligator River and Nourlangie, all across the northern Northern Territory. *D. crepitum* occurs on the Cape York Peninsular extending into the southern Gulf, while *D. daemeli* occurs in two localised regions in central coastal N.S.W. Each of the species inhabits heath vegetation, often spilling-over into adjacent tree foliage. The species of *Drymopsalta* are small and inconspicuous cicadas (<15 mm body length) with relatively high frequency songs (~15 to 22 kHz). The temporal structures of the normal calling songs follow a similar pattern in each species, consisting of the emission of short chirps (comprising 2–16 ticks). Between the chirps are emitted one (*D. wallumi*, *D. hobsoni*, *D. acrotela*), two (*D. daemeli*) or 1–9 (*D. crepitum*) intervening single ticks. The species can be distinguished by the timing and the number of these single ticks relative to the adjacent chirps with the notable exception of *D. hobsoni* and *D. acrotela*. The calling songs of these two allopatric species are indistinguishable, an unusual feature in Australian cicadas. Two additional song variants are described, a more unstructured chirping song without intervening single ticks observed in each of the species except *D. crepitum*, and periodic extended buzzing echemes emitted within the calling songs (excepting the *D. wallumi* song).

Key words: Cicadettini, *Drymopsalta*, cicadas, taxonomy, heathland cicadas, song analyses, song specificity, song recordings, Queensland, Northern Territory