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Pseudotetracha timberensis*: a new species from the Northern Territory, Australia (Coleoptera: Carabidae, Cicindelinae, Megacephalini) and considerations on the taxonomy of *Pseudotetracha

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Abstract

A new species of *Pseudotetracha* from Northern Territory, Australia, is described and compared with *Pseudotetracha marginicollis* (Sloane, 1906). The position of the species in the genus and the subgeneric classification of *Pseudotetracha* Fleutiaux, 1894 are discussed. It is proposed that the genus would be divided into the following species groups: “*australasiae*”, “*australis*”, “*blackburni*”, “*crucigera*”, “*cylindrica*”, “*greyana*” and “*marginicollis*”.

Key words: taxonomy, new species, Coleoptera, Cicindelinae, Megacephalini, *Pseudotetracha*, Australian Region

Introduction

The Australian tiger beetles of the tribe Megacephalini Horn, 1910, today regarded as belonging to the separate genus *Pseudotetracha* Fleutiaux, 1894 (Huber 1994, Zerm *et al.* 2007), form a complex of flightless populations with complicated mutual relations (Sumlin 1997, López-López *et al.* 2012). They are often tied to local sources of running or standing water that may run dry for much of the year. The intrageneric classification is based solely on external morphology and relations between populations cannot be reliably determined without DNA analyses (López-López *et al.* 2012). This is one of the reasons why we do not consider subgeneric classification of *Pseudotetracha* based on elytral coloration (Sumlin 1992) useful and favor a more flexible division into species groups, which Sumlin apparently also came to prefer but did not have time to publish (Sumlin 1997, López-López *et al.* 2012). Below we describe a new species of *Pseudotetracha* placed in the new “*marginicollis*” group, which is defined. A key to the species groups and a key to the species of the “*marginicollis*” group are presented.

Material and methods

Collections housing specimens used in this study are identified by the following acronyms:

MAGNT	Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory, Darwin, Northern Territory (Australia)
NMV	National Museum of Victoria, Abbotsford, Victoria (Australia)
cMH	Private Collection of M. Häckel, Praha, Czech Republic
cSJ	Private Collection of Stanislav Jákl, Praha, Czech Republic
cRS	Private Collection of R. Sehnal, Unhošť, Czech Republic

Dissections were made using standard techniques. Observations and dissections were made under a Nikon binocular stereomicroscope. Photographs were taken with a Nikon camera equipped with AF-5 DX Micro