New records for Hemiptera species in Western Australia

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Abstract – Four genera and nine species of Hemiptera from other states and territories have recently been recorded in Western Australia for the first time. Material has originated mainly from Jarrahdale, approximately 50 kms SE of Perth. Newly recorded species include one species of Cercopidae, five of Cicadellidae, one of Ricaniidae, one of Scutelleridae and one of Pentatomidae.

INTRODUCTION

The Hemiptera of Western Australia are poorly known compared to Eastern Australia, possibly owing to the State’s isolation from the main population centres of Australia, and the lack of local hemipteran taxonomists in the state. Even species representing potential threat to agriculture and/or forestry appear to have been overlooked, with the exception of introduced aphids. A few authors have attempted to catalogue Hemiptera within certain regions of WA (Abbott 1995; Cassis and Gross 1995, 2002; Heterick et al. 2001), although such catalogues rely on rather infrequent ground surveys of taxa. The first author has been investigating the understorey-associated Hemiptera of the northern jarrah (Eucalyptus marginata Sm.) forest at Jarrahdale, WA. New records of Hemiptera for WA, revealed by this study, are presented here.

METHODS

Specimens were collected by beating and suction sampling (see Smith 1999) at Jarrahdale, approximately 50 km SE of Perth in WA, at 32°14’5 116°05’E. Understorey plant species from the families Zamiaceae (Macrozamia), Proteaceae (Adenanthos and Hakea), Fabaceae (Bossiaea and Mirbelia), Mimosaceae (Acacia), Dasypogonaceae (Lomandra), Myrtaceae (Melaleuca), Rhamnaceae (Trymalium), Epacridaceae (Leucopogon) and Poaceae (Ehrhartia) were sampled. The two sampling methods were used on numerous understorey plant species of the jarrah forest, over a period of 20 months, resulting in excess of 26 000 hemipteran specimens, representing at least 380 species. At least nine of these represented records that were new to WA. Other collections examined for records of these newly recorded species, were those of the Western Australian Museum, Department of Agriculture WA, Department of Environmental Biology at Curtin University, and A. Postle’s Argyle Diamond Mines specimens (lodged in the WA Museum and Department of Environmental Biology). The methods utilised by Postle (1984) were light traps, sweeps, malaise traps and pitfall traps. Voucher specimens of adults collected by the first author have been lodged with the Western Australian Museum and, in some cases, the Department of Agriculture, WA.

Abbreviations used: ASCU, Agricultural Scientific Collections Unit, NSW Agriculture, Orange; NSW, New South Wales; Qld, Queensland; Vic, Victoria; SA, South Australia; NT, Northern Territory; Tas, Tasmania; WA, Western Australia; WAM, Western Australian Museum, Perth; WADA, Entomological collection, Department of Agriculture Western Australia, Perth.

NEW RECORDS

Suborder Auchenorrhyncha

Family Cercopidae

Petyllis deprivata (Walker, 1858)

Material examined: 4♂, Jarrahdale jarrah forest (32°14’5 116°05’E), November 2000, M. Moir, on FABACEAE: Bossiaea aquafoliolium (Benth.) (suction sampling); DASYPOGONACEAE: Lomandra sonderi (Muell.) (suction sampling); ZAMIACEAE: Macrozamia riedlei (Gaudich.) (suction sampling); PROTEACEAE: Adenanthos barbiger (Lindl.) (suction sampling) (WAM); 1♂, Dog Pool, Shannon National Park (34°46’5 116°22’E), 22–25 March 1993, M.S. Harvey and J.M. Waldock (WAM 33561); 1♂, Mt Clarence, Albany, 20 January 1941, P.N.F. Postmus (WAM 33560); 1♂, Mt Clarence, Albany, 8 December 1972, P.N. Forte (WADA 16200); 1♂, Dog Pool, Shannon National Park (34°46’5 116°22’E), 22–25 March 1993, M.S. Harvey and J.M. Waldock (WAM 33561); 1♂, Mt Clarence, Albany, 20 January 1941, P.N.F. Postmus (WAM 33560); 1♂, Mt Clarence, Albany, 8 December 1972, P.N. Forte (WADA 16200).
Material examined: 1♀, Jarrahdale rehabilitated mine pit (32°14'S 116°05'E), April 2000, M. Moir, suction sampling; 13♂ 4♀♀, Jarrahdale rehabilitated mine pit and surrounding jarrah forest (32°14'S 116°05'E), ii.2001, M. Moir, on FABACEAE: B. aquifolium (suction sampling), Mirbelia dilatata (R.Br.) (suction sampling and beating); PROTEACEAE: Hakea lissocarpha (R.Br.) (suction sampling); MIMOSACEAE: Acacia pulchella (R.Br.) (beating), Acacia drummondii (Lindl.) (beating), Acacia trigonophylla (Meisn.) (beating) (7♂ 2♀♀ in each of WAM and WADA).

Note: This material represents the first record of the genus Austrolopa from WA. Austrolopa currently includes two described species, A. brunensis (Evans 1937) and A. victoriensis (Evans 1939). The former is widespread in eastern Australia and has also been recorded in SA and Tas (Day and Fletcher 1994). The latter is known only from the female type specimen, collected from Warburton, Vic. The two species were differentiated by Evans (1966) by the length of the vertex, but this character is somewhat variable and further specimens of A. victoriensis from SE Australia, particularly males, are needed to support the recognition of A. victoriensis as a valid species. Austrolopa brunensis is known in several colour forms, and in both macropterous and brachypterous forms. No specimens collected from WA display brachyptery. Austrolopa adults and nymphs were common in the southwest on B. aquifolium and M. dilatata, although adults were occasionally collected on other plant species. Western Australian host plant records conform to eastern state hosts of Bossiaea and other Fabaceae species for A. brunensis (Day and Fletcher 1994; Fletcher and Larivière 2001). It appears that the Austrolopa species recorded in WA is distributed widely on B. aquifolium, as collections on this host plant were recorded at sites over 200km apart (Jarrahdale to Pemberton). However, a study of the genus Austrolopa from all parts of Australia is required to determine whether more than one species can be recognised, or whether the genus contains only a highly variable A. brunensis.

Subfamily Typhlocybinae

Tribe Erythroneurini

Zygina zealandica (Myers, 1923)

Material examined: 14♂ 15♀♀, Jarrahdale rehabilitated mine pit and surrounding jarrah forest (32°14'S 116°05'E), April 2000 – November 2001, M. Moir, on FABACEAE: B. aquifolium (chemical knockdown), M. dilatata (suction sampling); PROTEACEAE: H. lissocarpha (suction sampling); MIMOSACEAE: A. pulchella (suction sampling); RHAMNACEAE: T. ledifolium (beating) (7♂ 8♀♀ in WAM, 7♂ 7♀♀ in WADA); 7♂ 4♀♀, Como, Perth, October 2002, M. Moir, POACEAE: Ehrharta longiflora (Sm.) (hand collection) (WAM).
New hemipteran records

Note: This species is common and widespread in eastern Australia and New Zealand on a very wide range of host plants (Knight 1976). Its presence in WA on many plant species is not surprising and it is presumably also present in SA, although the species has not yet been confirmed in that State.

Subfamily Deltocephalinae

Tribe Macrostelini

*Balclutha viridinervis* (Matsumura, 1914)

**Material examined:** 1♀, Como, Perth, January 2002, M. Moir, by fluorescent light (WAM).

Note: This species is distributed in SE Asia and the western Pacific from India to New Zealand. In Australia it has been recorded in NT, NSW, Qld (Knight 1983; Fletcher and Lariviere 2001). This record from WA needs to be confirmed by examination of the genitalia of a male. The record may represent a recent introduction to WA, as the species has a wide distribution, and the single specimen examined was collected from a suburban garden of Perth.

*Balclutha incisa* (Matsumura, 1902)

**Material examined:** 1♂, Jarrahdale rehabilitated mine pit (32°14'S 116°05'E), April 2000, M. Moir, on MIMOSACEAE: *A. pulchella* (chemical knockdown) (WAM); 1♂, Lennard River crossing Gibb River road, Kimberley (17°23'S 124°44'E), 14–28 July 1988, T. Houston, Malaise trap (WAM 33562).

Note: *B. incisa* is one of the most common species of grass-feeding leafhoppers in Australia but has not previously been formally recorded from WA (Knight 1987; Fletcher and Lariviére 2001). Given the species’ wide host range and large distribution, the paucity of specimens captured at Jarrahdale suggests that *B. incisa* could be a recent introduction.

Tribe Athysanini

*Limotettix incertus* (Evans, 1966)

**Material examined:** 1♀, Jarrahdale rehabilitated mine pit (32°14'S 116°05'E), November 2001, M. Moir, on MIMOSACEAE: *A. pulchella* (beating) (WADA); 1♀, Mundrabilla Station (via Eucla), 7 January 1990, R. Patterson, under *Eucalyptus* sp. bark (WAM 33559).

Note: This is the first record of the genus in WA for this unusual Scutelleridae, which is distinctive due to its dull brown coloration (unlike other species in this family) and spines on the pronotum. Although the genus and species are poorly known, the species has been recorded from most states and territories of Australia (Gross 1975).

Suborder Heteroptera

Family Scutelleridae

Subfamily Odontotarsinae

*Morbora australis* (Distant, 1899)

**Material examined:** 1♀, Jarrahdale rehabilitated mine pit (32°14'S 116°05'E), November 2000, M. Moir, on MIMOSACEAE: *A. pulchella* (beating) (WADA); 1♀, Mundrabilla Station (via Eucla), 7 January 1990, R. Patterson, under *Eucalyptus* sp. bark (WAM 33559).

Note: This is the first record of the genus in WA for this unusual Scutelleridae, which is distinctive due to its dull brown coloration (unlike other species in this family) and spines on the pronotum. Although the genus and species are poorly known, the species has been recorded from most states and territories of Australia (Gross 1975).

Family Pentatomidae

Subfamily Pentatominae

*Gilippus hostilis* (Hagland, 1868)

**Material examined:** 2♀, Jarrahdale rehabilitated mine pit and surrounding jarrah forest (32°14'S 116°05'E), November 2000 and November 2001, M. Moir, on EPACRIDACEAE: *Leucopogon nutans* (Pritz) (beating) (1♀ in each of WAM and WADA).

Note: This species has been recorded previously from NSW and Vic (Gross 1976). It may be active during late spring, as both females were collected during November.

DISCUSSION

The most common of the newly recorded Hemiptera were *Z. zealandica*, *Austrolopa* sp. and *E. aziola* (506, 21 and 18 specimens collected at Jarrahdale, respectively). *Zygina zealandica* and *Austrolopa* sp. were found easily and it is probable that these species have always been present in the southwest. It is possible that they have gone unnoticed until the present, possibly due to a lack of hemipteran surveys.

Single specimens of *M. australis*, *B. viridinervis*, *B.
incisa and L. incertus were obtained at Jarrahdale. Other species that were represented by fewer than five specimens at Jarrahdale were G. hostilis and P. deprivata. Considering the intensity of the collection methods for the understorey, and the total number of hemipterans collected, populations of the above-mentioned species were thought to be in low abundance at Jarrahdale. Whether these species are recent introductions to WA is unknown, although the small populations would have inhibited the chance of previous discovery. If species are present most of the year, either as eggs, nymphs or overwintering in leaf litter, further difficulty could be expected in collecting and recording them. One particular cicadellid, L. incertus, has a large distribution over the State, as specimens were collected over 2200km apart (Jarrahdale, Swan Coastal Plain, Karijini National Park and Kununurra). Although sampling was conducted intensively at Jarrahdale and Kununurra, only single specimens were obtained. The singletons from most locations suggest either that the species is at the limit of its range, populations occur in extremely low abundance, or that the host plants were not targeted in the sampling effort (for further discussion on singletons see Novotny and Basset 2000).

Herbivorous Hemiptera are thought to have close relationships with the plant species upon which they feed (New 1988; Carver et al. 1991). Future surveys, therefore, should incorporate host plant data to uncover more information about this interesting group. Further collections of Hemiptera will, undoubtedly, reveal more described species in WA. In addition to new records such as these, many undescribed species and genera are expected with an increase in surveys. For example, the Jarrahdale Hemiptera study has revealed in excess of 250 species that are yet to be described.

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REFERENCES


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