

***Bandella*, A New Hilarine Fly Genus from Australia (Diptera: Empididae)**

DANIEL J. BICKEL

Australian Museum, 6 College Street, Sydney NSW 2010, Australia

danb@austmus.gov.au

ABSTRACT. *Bandella* n.gen. (Diptera: Empididae: Empidinae: Hilarini) is described from mainland Australia and Tasmania, and comprises nine new species: *B. albitarsis*, *B. cerra*, *B. allynensis*, *B. costalis*, *B. duvalli*, *B. maxi*, *B. montana*, *B. noorinbee*, and *B. tasmanica*. *Bandella* is distinguished from other genera in the Hilarini by the following combination of characters: mesonotum glabrous, without pruinosity, but with diagnostic colour patterns; mesonotal vestiture highly reduced, comprising only short setulae; male tarsus I unmodified; and male abdominal terga 7 and 8 reduced or modified to form flaps so that hypopygium can be flexed forward. The genus is distinctive in having an almost fully formed vein CuP running lengthwise across the centre of cell cup. Although vein CuP is part of the wing groundplan in Diptera, it has variable expression in the lower Brachycera. In other Empididae, this vein is either residual and positioned closely posteriad of vein CuA₂, or totally absent. Also, *Bandella* has a divided and sclerotised male cercus, a character also shared by the endemic Tasmanian hilarine genus *Cunomyia* Bickel. *Bandella* has a predominately temperate Bassian distribution: Tasmania, southeastern and southwestern Australia, with an outlying species in submontane rainforest of tropical Queensland.

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This is the third contribution to a revision of the Australian Hilarini (Diptera: Empididae: Empidinae) (see Bickel, 1996, 1998). This tribe is taxonomically rich in Australia, with hundreds of species awaiting description, especially in the complex of genera similar to the cosmopolitan genus *Hilara*.

This short paper describes *Bandella*, a distinctive new genus comprising nine new species: eight are from temperate Australia and one is from submontane rainforest in the Queensland wet tropics. It is distinguished by a strongly developed vein CuP, a thorax almost totally devoid of major setae but with shining patterned cuticle, an unswollen (i.e., unmodified) male basitarsis I, and by a tendency to curl the distal tarsomeres on all legs (dried specimens). *Bandella* is morphologically isolated with respect to other genera in the Hilarini, although it possibly is closest to the Tasmanian hilarine genus *Cunomyia* Bickel, as both genera share a divided male cercus.

Materials and methods

This study is based on material housed in major Australian and overseas collections (see Acknowledgements for list of repositories and their abbreviations). Morphological terminology follows McAlpine (1981) except that of the male terminalia, which follows Cumming *et al.* (1995). Measurements are in millimetres and based on representative dry specimens. The position of features on elongate structures such as leg segments is given as a fraction of the total length, starting from the base. The relative lengths of the podomeres are representative ratios and not measurements, and are presented in the following formula and punctuation: trochanter + femur; tibia; tarsomere 1/ 2/ 3/ 4/ 5.

The following abbreviations and terms are used (museums and other collections are listed in Acknowledgements): FSSC, female secondary sexual character(s), the