

The *Heteromeri*ngia (Diptera: Clusiidae: Clusiodinae) of Australia

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ABSTRACT. The *Heteromeri*ngia of Australia and Tasmania are revised, with illustrations and a key to species provided. Thirteen of the twenty Australian *Heteromeri*ngia are described here as new: *H. asteia* n.sp., *H. bisetosa* n.sp., *H. digitula* n.sp., *H. helina* n.sp., *H. hypobrunnea* n.sp., *H. limacens* n.sp., *H. macropa* n.sp., *H. magnicauda* n.sp., *H. montana* n.sp., *H. patula* n.sp., *H. ptenopa* n.sp., *H. stegna* n.sp. and *H. trisetosa* n.sp. *Heteromeri*ngia pulla D.K. McAlpine, new synonym, is treated as a junior synonym of *H. spinulosa* D.K. McAlpine. A key to the six genera of Clusiidae occurring in Australia is also provided.

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*Heteromeri*ngia Czerny (Schizophora: Clusiidae: Clusiodinae) is found in all biogeographic regions, and along with *Craspedochaeta* Czerny, is the most dominant clusiid taxon of the Old World tropical and south temperate regions. Like other clusiids (also known as “druid flies”), *Heteromeri*ngia has an angulate extension on the outer-distal margin of the pedicel (Fig. 1), but it is unique in having a long, coiled, double-ribbed distiphallus (Fig. 60). The genus is further characterized by an absence of all preapical tibial bristles, one pair of minute lateral scutellar bristles (not two well developed pairs), and only three (rarely two) pairs of fronto-orbital bristles, the anterior pair of which are inclinate (Fig. 2).

Lonsdale & Marshall (2007a, 2008) recently treated *Heteromeri*ngia in their New World and Fijian revisions, redefining the genus, erecting several species groups and discussing the biology and behaviour of several species. The Australian *Heteromeri*ngia was last treated by D.K. McAlpine (1960) in his landmark revision of the family. He recognized nine species, one of which he tentatively

described as “species A”. His “species A” is here included in *H. montana* n.sp., 12 other new species are described, *H. pulla* D.K. McAlpine n.syn. is included as a junior synonym of the morphologically variable *H. spinulosa* D.K. McAlpine, the eggs of eight species are described, and all continental Australian and Tasmanian species are keyed and illustrated. Twenty species of *Heteromeri*ngia are now recognized to occur in Australia, only one of which (*H. bisetosa* n.sp., also found in Papua New Guinea) is known to occur outside of Australia.

Almost all Australian *Heteromeri*ngia are known to occur along the eastern and southeastern coastal regions of the continent, although *H. norrisi* D.K. McAlpine is found only in Western Australia. Four species are restricted to the north: *H. stegna* n.sp. (Cape York Peninsula, Northern Territory), *H. bisetosa* n.sp. (Cape York Peninsula, Papua New Guinea), *H. hypobrunnea* n.sp. and *H. limacens* n.sp. (Cape York Peninsula). *Heteromeri*ngia laticornis D.K. McAlpine is the most widespread Australian species, known