

## A New Species of *Tamasa* Distant from an Unusual Cave-like Habitat in Australia (Cicadidae: Cicadinae: Tamasini)

M. S. MOULDS<sup>1\*</sup> AND J. C. OLIVE<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Entomology, Australian Museum, 6 College Street, Sydney NSW 2010, Australia

<sup>2</sup> P.O. Box 71, Malanda QLD 4885, Australia

[msmoulds@gmail.com](mailto:msmoulds@gmail.com)

**ABSTRACT.** *Tamasa caverna* n. sp. is described from Black Mountain, northern Queensland, a mountain consisting almost entirely of large rock boulders. The species appears to be unique amongst Cicadidae in that the males sing from under these large boulders far from trees. Notes on its song and behaviour are provided.

MOULDS, M. S., AND J. C. OLIVE. 2014. A new species of *Tamasa* Distant from an unusual cave-like habitat in Australia (Cicadidae: Cicadinae: Tamasini). *Records of the Australian Museum* 66(5): 265–270.

### Introduction

The genus *Tamasa* Distant has recently been redefined and its distinguishing features summarized (Moulds 1990, 2012); it includes four species endemic to eastern Australia. The new species described here is known only from Black Mountain, northern Queensland, and is unique amongst the Cicadidae because the males sing from under giant boulders far from trees. The song of this new species is analyzed and its habit of singing amongst the boulders discussed.

Terminology for morphological features and higher classification follow those of Moulds (2005). The following abbreviations have been used for collections housing specimens: *AM*, Australian Museum, Sydney; *JO*, Collection of John Olive, Malanda; *LWP*, collection of L. W. Popple, Brisbane; *MSM*, collection of M. S. Moulds, Kuranda; *QM*, Queensland Museum, Brisbane.

### Family Cicadidae

#### Tribe Tamasini

#### *Tamasa caverna* n. sp.

Figs 4–10

**Types.** Holotype male, 12.i.2003, Black Mountain near Cooktown, Nth QLD, J. Olive (QM). Paratypes as follows, all from Queensland: 1♂, Black Mountain near Cooktown, 12.i.2003, J. Olive (AM); 1♂, Black Mountain near Cooktown, 12.i.2003, J. Olive; 1♂ 1♀, Black Mountain, 15°39'06"S 145°12'55"E 11, 11.i.2004, J. C. Olive; 3♂♂, Black Mountain near Cooktown, 23.i.2014, J. Olive & S. Orr; 1♂, Black Mountain near Cooktown, 24.i.2014, J. Olive (JO). 1♂ (genitalia prep. T79), Black Mountain, south of Cooktown, 15°39.1'S 145°13.2'E, 11.i.2004, J. Olive; 1♂, 1♀ (female specimen no. 04.QLD.STO.11, voucher for molecular sample), Black Mountain, S of Cooktown, 15°39.1'S 145°13.2'E, 12.i.2004, Cooley, Hill, Marshall, Moulds (MSM). 1♂, Black Mountain via Cooktown, 4.i.2001, R. Morgan (LWP).

\* author for correspondence