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A peculiar new species of the genus *Amblytelus* Erichson from southern Queensland, Australia

(Insecta, Coleoptera, Carabidae, Psydrinae)

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Amblytelus fallax, spec. nov. is described from south-eastern Queensland, Australia. It differs from all known species of the genus *Amblytelus* by absence of the tactile seta in the mandibular scrobe and, at the same time, by extra setae on head and pronotum and by the exceptional large number of setae on disk and at the lateral margins of the elytra, and also at the apical margin of the terminal abdominal sternite in the female.

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Introduction

Soon after print of the revision of the amblyteline Psydrinae (Baehr 2005) in a determination shipment I received a number of specimens of the common Australian species *Amblytelus brevis* Blackburn. Within this sample, a single female specimen was outstanding, at the first glance, by the large number of elytral setae and also by slight differences in body shape and elytral pattern. More detailed examination revealed some surprising special characters that distinguish this specimen from all known amblyteline species. Because the single specimen not only differs in its chetotaxy, but also deviates in certain other characters from the most similar *A. brevis*, it is described as a new species herein.

Style and format of the description exactly corresponds to that in my revision (Baehr 2005) which also can be used to gain additional information about the genus *Amblytelus* Erichson, its morphology, distribution, and habits.

Amblytelus fallax, spec. nov.

Figs 1-3

Types. Holotype: ♀, AUSTRALIA Peregian, 20 mi N. Maroochydore, Qld. 11.iii.1975 H. & A. Howden/*Banksia* flowers (Agriculture Canada, Ottawa).

Diagnosis. Immediately distinguished from all known species of the genus *Amblytelus* by absence of the tactile seta in the mandibular scrobe, and by presence of extra surpaocular, anterior pronotal, scutellar, discal and marginal elytral, and apical abdominal setae. In shape and colouration very similar to *A. brevis* Blackburn, but with larger eyes, more angulate basal angles of the pronotum, and more faded dark sutural stripe.

Description

Measurements. Length: 9.5 mm; width: 4.1 mm. Ratios. Length eye/orbit: 4.0; width/length of pronotum: 1.51; width base/apex of pronotum: 1.22; width pronotum/head: 1.34; length/width of elytra: 1.50; width elytra/pronotum: 1.64.

Colour (Fig. 1). Fore body light reddish, light discal stripes and lateral margin of elytra, mouth parts, antennae and legs pale reddish to yellowish,

Fig. 1. *Amblytelus fallax*, spec. nov., holotype. Habitus and colour pattern. Length: 9.5 mm.

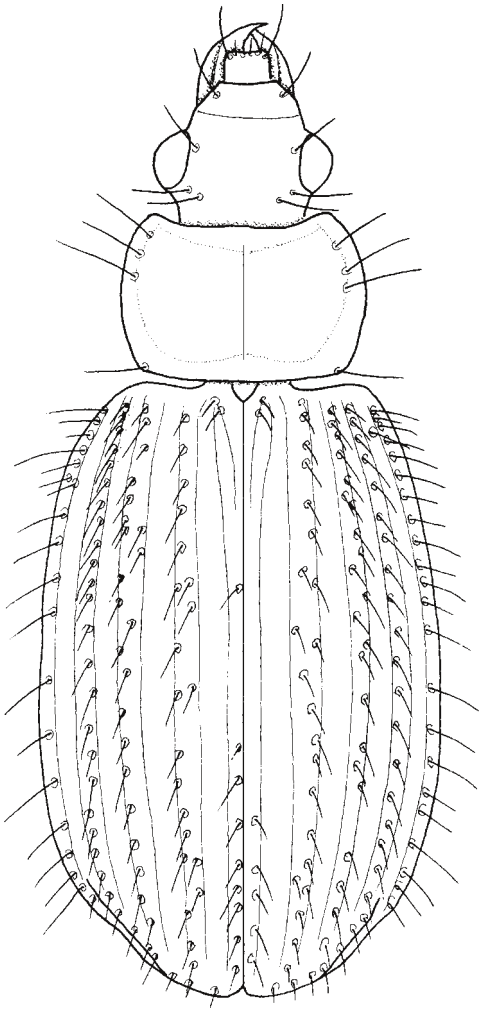

Fig. 2. *Amblytelus fallax*, spec. nov. Arrangement of chetotaxy. Length: 9.5 mm.

dark lateral stripes of elytra piceous to almost black, the sutural stripe reddish. Suture of elytra including 2nd interval dark, dark lateral stripes occupying the lateral two thirds of 6th interval and the whole 7th interval, margin light from 8th interval onwards. Sutural stripe not reaching base, gradually fading towards base. The light discal stripes ending at a short distance from apex, apex of elytra completely reddish, because the black lateral stripes are also abbreviated near apex and are fading into reddish.

Chetotaxy (Fig. 2; different from the revision, chetotaxy is not abbreviated due to the many differences from all other species).

Head: labial: 6; clypeal (either side): 1; mandibular: 0; mental: 2; submental (either side): 1 and 2; anterior supraorbital (either side): 1; posterior supraorbital (either side): 2.

Pronotum (either side): anterior pronotal: 3; posterior pronotal: 1.

Elytra: scutellar (either side): 2; 1st interval: 5-8; 3rd interval: 18-19; 5th interval: 22-23; 7th interval: 23-25; marginal: 19-21; apical: 4-5.

Abdomen (either side): female terminal: 4-5; male terminal: unknown.

Head. Rather wide, depressed, about one fourth narrower than pronotum. Eyes very large, laterally markedly protruded, orbits short, very oblique, very slightly convex, evenly merging into curvature of eye. Labrum anteriorly slightly concave. Mandibles moderately elongate, different to all other species of

Amblytelini scrobe without any trace of mandibular pore and seta. Tooth of mentum large, wide, apically convex. Glossa transverse at apex, bisetose, paraglossae hyaline, barely surpassing glossa. Lacinia with few very strong spines. Both palpi obliquely cut at apex, sparsely and very finely pilose. Antenna elongate, surpassing base of pronotum by c. 3 antennomeres. Median antennomeres c. 3× as long as wide. Posterior supraorbital setae slightly removed from eye, situated at posterior margin of eye. Frontal furrows shallow, about circular. Surface absolutely smooth, without any punctuation and microreticulation, very glossy.

Pronotum. Wide, somewhat cordiform, dorsally rather convex. Apex moderately concave, apical angles very widely rounded, slightly protruded. Lateral margin convex throughout, basal angles distinct though obtuse, forming an angle of about 110°. Base slightly convex, but laterally barely excised. Apex in middle not margined, base finely margined. Marginal channel moderately deep, lateral margins wide, widened towards base, slightly explanate and upturned. Median line distinct, neither reaching apex nor margin, both anterior and posterior transversal sulci very shallow. Basal grooves about circular, barely separated from marginal channel. The three anterior lateral seta inserted in anterior half, situated in marginal channel far removed from margin. The posterior lateral seta arising at lateral margin very slightly in front of basal angle. Surface absolutely smooth, without punctuation and microreticulation, very glossy.

Elytra. Moderately elongate, moderately convex, distinctly widened posteriorly, widest at apical third. Humeri widely rounded, lateral margin gently convex, in middle almost straight, at apex convex though with slight excision where the apical epipleural fold meets the margin. Apex of either elytron gently angulate, hence elytra slightly dehiscent at suture. Lateral apical fold very strong. All striae complete, rather deep, at bottom finely crenulate, intervals depressed. Scutellar pore and seta doubled, all odd intervals, including the first, with remarkably numerous setiferous punctures (s. chetotaxy), marginal channel also unusually multisetose, series very slightly interrupted behind middle. Intervals finely and rather sparsely punctulate, distinctly though very finely and rather superficially microreticulate, meshes about isodiametric to slightly transverse. Surface rather glossy.

Posterior wings. Fully developed.

Lower surface. Metepisternum very elongate, c. 3× as long as wide at apex. Abdominal sterna unisetose on either side, terminal sternum s. chetotaxy.

Legs. Of average size.

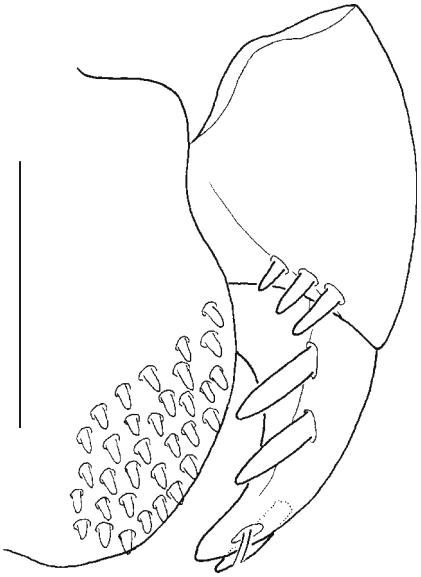

Fig. 3. *Amblytelus fallax*, spec. nov. Female stylomeres 1 and 2. Scale: 0.2 mm.

♂ genitalia. Unknown.

♀ genitalia (Fig. 3). Female stylomere 2 fairly elongate, regularly curved, with 2 large latero-ventral ensiform setae, a large medio-dorsal ensiform seta situated at apical third, and two short, attached nematiform setae originating from a groove near apex. Stylomere 1 rather elongate, longer than wide, with 3 short ensiform setae of slightly decreasing size situated on latero-ventral rim. Lateral plate ventro-medially with a field of densely packed, very short, knob-shaped ensiform setae.

Variation. Unknown.

Distribution. South-eastern Queensland, Australia. Known only from type locality.

Collecting circumstances. Collected on "*Banksia* flowers".

Etymology. Latin "*fallax*" means "fraudulent" and refers to the mocking number of setae on almost all body parts that usually bear tactile setae.

Remarks

It is surprising why this peculiar species has been so far collected in a single specimen only and was not represented in the thousands of specimens of bilineate *Amblytelus* from south-eastern Australia that I have examined in the course of the revision of this genus. The exceptional chetotaxy of the single

available specimen of the new species, in combination with the likewise unusual collecting circumstances renders this a quite enigmatic species, and thus it may be allowed to speculate about presumably aberrant habits. Normally, in south-eastern Australia, species of the genus *Amblytelus*, but also amblytelines in general, are found either under bark of bark-shedding eucalypts in open sclerophyll forest or woodland, or on mossy tree trunks in temperate and subtropical rain forest. Reports of amblyteline specimens collected on flowering plants are so far unknown to me. However, at present and with a single specimen only, it seems superfluous to speculate whether this may be the regular habits of this species. But the remarkably multiplied number of tactile setae on the whole body and, on the other hand, the loss of the mandibular seta that is present in all other amblyteline species, must be of some ecological significance. Future collectors of amblytelines thus are advised to pay special attention to this habitat.

Even when the new species lacks the mandibular seta which absence is unique within Amblytelini in general, I guess that it may be yet rather closely related to the *curtus-brevis-sinuatus*-assemblage of rather large, quite similarly shaped and patterned species that bear bilineate elytra with multisetose odd intervals, and which are common in open forests of south-eastern and south-western Australia (for more information see Baehr 2005). Unfortunately, the male genitalia of *A. fallax* which could either corroborate or refuse this assumption are still unknown.

Acknowledgements

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References

Baehr, M. 2005. The Amblytelini. A tribe of corticolous ground beetles from Australia. Taxonomy, phylogeny, biogeography (Insecta, Coleoptera, Carabidae, Psydrinae). – Coleoptera **8**: 1-286 (2004)