

OBSERVATIONS ON THE AUSTRALIAN DIACALLA COMATA PASCOE (COLEOPTERA, ANTHICIDAE, EURYGENIINAE)

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The Australian species, *Diacalla comata* Pascoe, has been redescribed and illustrated. The monotypic genus *Diacalla* Pascoe has been characterised and compared from other Australian genera of the Eurygeniini.

Introduction

The genus *Diacalla* Pascoe and its type species (*D. comata* Pascoe—by monotypy) were originally placed in the beetle family Lagriidae³ but that was a mistake. Unlike the Lagriidae all the visible abdominal sternites are free, and the front coxal cavities are visibly (i.e. externally) open but internally closed. The genus is a member of the tribe Eurygeniini of the family Anthicidae as defined by Abdullah.¹

Description

The following characters of generic value were observed: Head widest across eyes, nearly as wide as or slightly wider than pronotum at its widest part. Tempora prominent. Apical (i.e. fourth) segment of maxillary palp securiform. Apical (i.e. third) segment of labial palp nearly filiform. Eyes entire, small. Antennae filiform to subserrate; apical (i.e. eleventh) segment elongate. Pronotum not campanulate; widest subapically above middle, sides subparallel; surface sculpture visible. Mesepisterna meeting in front of mesosternum. Wing with anal cell closed. Parameres or lateral lobes irregularly multispined dorsolaterally, without ventral ridges (Fig. 5). Median lobe spinous laterally below apex; median struts reduced (Fig. 6). Ovipositor narrow, slender; coxite unsegmented.

Diacalla comata Pascoe (Figs. 1-8)

Diacalla comata Pascoe, Ref. 3, pp. 46-47, Pl. II, Fig. 6 (Lagriidae); Champion, Ref. 2, pp. 193-194, Pl. LXIII, Fig. 8, (Pedilidae).

Male (author's no. 486). Australia: Moretor Bay, in the British Museum (Natural History) London.

Colour.—Black; eyes dark brown.

Vestiture.—Pubescence sparse, brownish-black hairs, generally distributed on body, not covering surface sculpture below, erect to suberect but more or less decumbent below.

Punctures.—Coarse and dense on head, pronotum and elytra.

Head.—Head slightly wider than pronotum at its widest part. Mandible entire at apex. Antenna with segments IX and X subserrate; apical segment nearly four times longer than tenth segment (Fig. 1).

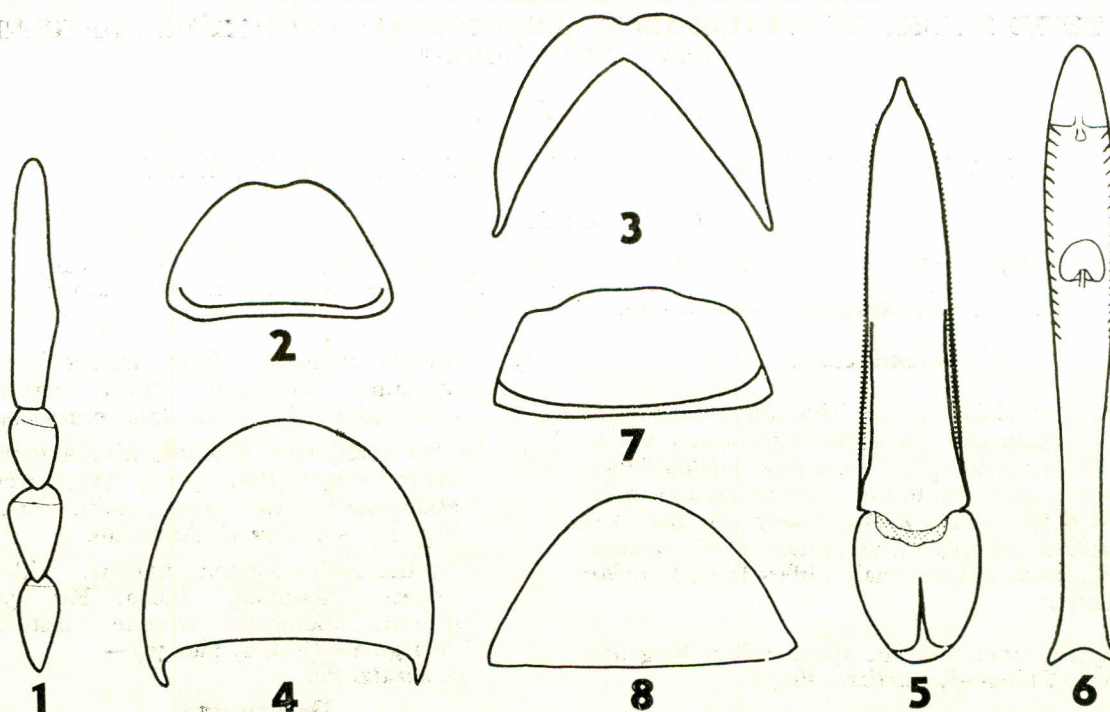
Thorax.—Pronotum with median sulcus indistinct. Wing with cross-vein between 2d A₂ and 2d A₃ incomplete, between 3d A₁ and 3d A₂ complete.

Abdomen.—Seventh (i. e. fifth visible) sternite emarginate at apex (Fig. 2). Seventh tergite entire at apex. Eighth sternite narrow, emarginate at apex (Fig. 3). Eighth tergite entire at apex (Fig. 4). Tegmen and median lobe lateral in orientation. Parameres slightly tapering at apex; basal-piece medially ridged at base (Fig. 5). Median lobe characteristic; median struts divergent (Fig. 6).

Measurements in mm.—Total length 8. Antennal segments I-XI: 0.28, 0.17, 0.30, 0.26, 0.24, 0.24, 0.24, 0.23, 0.21, 0.20 and 0.74 respectively. Maxillary palp segments I-IV: 0.08, 0.26, 0.12 and 0.40 respectively. Head: width across eyes 1.53; minimum dorsal interocular distance 1.02. Pronotum: length 1.62; width at apex 1.10; maximum width 1.47; width at base 1.36. Elytron: length 5.7; maximum width 1.02; Front tarsal segments I-V: 0.43, 0.25, 0.22, 0.09 and? respectively. Middle tarsal segments I-V: 0.51, 0.26, 0.23, 0.10 and 0.40 respectively. Hind tarsal segments I-IV: 0.57, 0.28, 0.11 and 0.40 respectively. Hind tibial spur 0.17.

Female (author's no. 487), same locality as the male (no. 486), in the British Museum (Natural History). Differs from the male as follows: elytra brownish-black; head nearly as wide as pronotum; antennae filiform, eleventh antennal segment nearly twice as long as tenth segment; seventh abdominal sternite entire at apex (Fig. 7). Seventh tergite entire at apex (Fig. 8). Ovipositor sparsely, minutely hairy at apex. Total length 9 mm.

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Figs. 1-9.—*Diacalla comata* Pascoe, 1, apical four antennal segments of male; 2, seventh abdominal sternite of male; 3, eighth sternite of male; 4, eighth tergite of male; 5, tegmen of male, ventral view; 6, median lobe of male, ventral view; 7, seventh sternite of female; 8, seventh tergite of female.

SUMMARY OF THE DISTINGUISHING COMPARATIVE CHARACTERS OF THE AUSTRALIAN GENERA OF THE EURYGENIINI.

Characters	<i>Diacalla</i> Pascoe	<i>Egestria</i> Pascoe	<i>Egestrina</i> Champion	<i>Macatriomima</i> Champion
Antennal segment XI	2-4 times longer than segment X	Usually 2-4 times longer than segment X	Less than twice longer than segment X	Less than twice longer than segment X
Maxillary palp segment IV	Securiform	Cultriform to subcultriform	Subcultriform	Securiform
Neck	Wide	Wide	Wide	Narrow
Pronotum	Not campanulate	Elongate	Campanulate	Campanulate
Anal cell of wing	Present	Present	Absent	Absent

Additional Record and Variation.—One male and two females, all from the same locality and one female from "N. Holl", Queensland are deposited in the British Museum (Natural History). Colour varies from black to reddish-brown or piceous.

The male specimen described by Pascoe,³ designated as the holotype by me, differs from the male specimen (no. 486) in having dark brown eyes with black patches.

The female specimens are larger in size than males, are more hairy, have larger mandibles

and more pronounced anterior portion of the head capsule.

Body length varies from 7 to 11 mm.

References

1. M. Abdullah, Entomologist's mon. Mag. (1968).
2. G.C. Champion, Trans. Ent. Soc., London, 181 (1916).
3. F. P. Pascoe, J. Ent., 13, 26 (1866).