

ONE HISTORICAL AND TWO NEW RECORDS OF  
*AUSTROTEPHRITIS* HANCOCK & DREW SPECIES (DIPTERA:  
TEPHRITIDAE: TEPHRITINAE) FROM TASMANIA

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**Abstract**

*Austrotephritis brunnea* (Hardy & Drew) and *A. bushi* (Hardy & Drew) are newly reported from Tasmania. Also included is an historical record of *A. pelia* (Schiner) from Hobart, collected by Charles Darwin in 1836.

**Introduction**

The genus *Austrotephritis* Hancock & Drew was proposed for 21 described and one undescribed species of flower-infesting tephritines from Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea (Hancock and Drew 2003), all formerly placed in either *Campiglossa* Rondani or *Tephritis* Latreille. Australian species had been revised or described by Hardy and Drew (1996), with 17 species recorded. Hancock (2006) subsequently placed the Western Australian *A. turneri* (Hardy & Drew) as a synonym of *A. campiglossina* (Hering), described erroneously as a species of *Mesoclanis* Munro from India. An additional, apparently undescribed species close to *A. phaeostigma* (Hardy & Drew) is known from Eidsvold in central Queensland.

Five species were reported from Tasmania by Hardy and Drew (1996), viz. *A. fuscata* (Macquart), *A. pelia* (Schiner), *A. poenia* (Walker), *A. tasmaniae* (Hardy & Drew) and *A. whitei* (Hardy & Drew). Two atypical specimens tentatively referred to *A. transversa* (Hardy & Drew) by Hardy and Drew (1996) are possibly of the variable *A. fuscata*; both putative species were collected on the same day at the same location near Cradle Mountain.

New distribution or historical records are reported here for three species from Tasmania, based on material in the Queensland Museum, Brisbane (QMB, formerly in the University of Queensland Insect Collection) and Oxford University Museum of Natural History (OUMNH).

Tribe Tephritini

*Austrotephritis brunnea* (Hardy & Drew, 1996)

TASMANIA: 1 ♂, 1 ♀, Eaglehawk N., 17.xi.1922, A. Tonnoir (QMB).

Newly recorded from Tasmania. Previously recorded from Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory (Hardy and Drew 1996).

*Austrotephritis bushi* (Hardy & Drew, 1996)

TASMANIA: 1 ♀, Breona, 27.i.1960, F.J. McDonald (QMB).

Newly recorded from Tasmania. Previously recorded from Victoria, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory (Hardy and Drew 1996).



*Austrotephritis pelia* (Schiner, 1868)

TASMANIA: 1 ♀, Hobart Town, C. Darwin (OUMNH).

Although recorded from all Australian States, including Tasmania (Hardy and Drew 1996), the above specimen of *A. pelia* (Fig. 1) is an interesting historical record. Collected by Charles Darwin during the voyage of the *Beagle* in February, 1836 (see Darwin 1839), it appears to be the first specimen of a tephritid fly collected in Australia.



Fig. 1. Charles Darwin's specimen of *Austrotephritis pelia* from Hobart, Tasmania. Photograph © Oxford University Museum of Natural History.

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