

13. Family PERISSOMMATIDAE

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This small family of flies (5 species; 4 Australian, 1 Chilean) was proposed by Colless (1962a) for the aberrant genus *Perissomma*. The position of the family within the Nematocera is uncertain, but its placement within the Bibionomorpha by Colless (1962a) has been accepted by subsequent authors and is followed here. Its suspected primitive origin is substantiated by its Transantarctic distribution (in Australia and

Chile). All known Perissomatidae are sylvan species. The larvae of *P. fuscum* have been found in *Boletus* fungi. Larvae presumed to be of *P. mcAlpinei* have been collected from moist leaf litter. A formal taxonomic review and a discussion of cytogenetics of the family is found in Colless (1969).

Refs.: Colless (1962a, 1969, rev., key, biol., cytogenetics), McAlpine (1987a, behav.).

Genus PERISSOMMA Colless

PERISSOMMA Colless, 1962a: 520. Type species: *Perissomma fusca* Colless, 1962, orig. des.
bellissimum Colless, 1969: 726. Australia (NSW).
dobrotworskyi Colless, 1969: 726. Australia (NSW); Australia (Vic).
fuscum Colless, 1962a: 525. Australia (ACT); Australia (SA, Vic).
mcAlpinei Colless, 1962a: 528. Australia (NSW); Australia (Vic).