

## 81. Family BRAULIDAE

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**T**he family Braulidae, comprising 2 genera, *Braula* and *Megabraula*, contains 8 species (see Papp 1984f, Huttinger 1980, Grimaldi & Underwood 1986). Adults of all species are small, acarine-like insects found in the hives of bees (*Apis* spp.), often attached to the adult bees; larvae live in the brood combs and feed on pollen.

Only 1 species, the bee louse, *Braula coeca*, is recorded from the Australasian/Oceanian Reg-

ions. It is widely distributed (see Smith & Caron 1985), apparently having been introduced to many parts of the world, including Tasmania (Colless & McAlpine 1970).

*Refs.*: Skaife (1921, biol.), Phillips (1925, biol., morphol.), Hassanein & Abd El-Salam (1963a,b, biol., morphol.), Örösi Pál (1966a,b, world list, biol., morphol.).

### Genus BRAULA Nitzsch

**BRAULA** Nitzsch, 1818: 314. Type species: *Braula coeca* Nitzsch, 1818, mon.

**ENTOMIBIA** Costa, 1846: 301. Type species: *Entomibia apum* Costa, 1846 [= *Braula coeca* Nitzsch, 1818], mon.

**MELITTOMYIA** Bigot, 1885l: 227, 235 (unnec. n. n. for *Braula*).

**coeca** Nitzsch, 1818: 315. Not given [?Germany]; Australia (Tas) [introduced]; S. Afr., USA, widesp. W Palearctic Reg.

*caeca*, error for *coeca*.