

## 35. Family MYDIDAE\*

By Greg Daniels

A small but worldwide family of handsome, elongate flies, of medium to large size, mydids are usually sparsely pilose and often resemble wasps. They bear a superficial resemblance to Asilidae but are distinguished by the long clubbed antennae and wing venation. Within the regions covered here, the family occurs throughout Australia, including Tasmania.

Adult mydids occupy a wide variety of habitats and can be locally common, especially in open country. They are fond of hot, sandy habitats and can be found resting on bare ground or, less often,

visiting *Leptospermum* (Myrtaceae) blossoms. At least 2 species are known to occur in rainforests. A number of authors have discussed the possibility that adult mydids prey upon other insects. Females dig into the soil with the tip of the abdomen to lay eggs. Norris (1938) described the eggs and the first 2 instars of *Anomalomydas mackerrasi*, the only recorded immature stages of any Australian species. The larvae and pupae of mydids from other regions are similar to those of the Asilidae.

Ref.: Paramonov (1950e, key).

### Subfamily ANOMALOMYDINAE

#### Genus ANOMALOMYDAS Papavero & Wilcox

**ANOMALOMYDAS** Papavero & Wilcox, 1974: 9. Type species: *Miltinus mackerrasi* Norris, 1938, orig. des.

**australicus** Paramonov, 1950e: 12 (*Miltinus*). Australia (SA).

**mackerrasi** Norris, 1938: 46 (*Miltinus*). Australia (WA).

### Subfamily DIOCHLISTINAE

#### Genus DIOCHLISTUS Gerstaecker

**DIOCHLISTUS** Gerstaecker, 1868: 73. Type species: *Diochlistis mitis* Gerstaecker, 1868, mon.

**TRICLONUS** Gerstaecker, 1868: 75. Type species: *Mydas auripennis* Westwood, 1835, des. Hardy, 1942: 201.

**HARMOPHANA** Thomson, 1869: 462. Type species: *Mydas clavata* Macquart, 1850, des. Hardy, 1942: 201.

**analogus** Paramonov, 1950e: 22. Australia (Qld).

**apollinosus** Paramonov, 1950e: 23. Australia (SA); Australia (Vic).

**auripennis** Westwood, 1835c: 281 (*Midas*). "Novâ Hollandiâ"; Australia (NSW, Qld).

*fulvipennis* Macquart, 1850: 362(58) (*Mydas*). Australia, "côte orientale."

**edgari** Paramonov, 1961d: 107. Australia (Qld).

**gracilis** Macquart, 1847a: 32 [1847b: 48] (*Cephalocera*). "Nouvelle-Hollande"; Australia (NSW, Qld, SA, WA).

*bispinifer* Westwood, 1848a: 88 (*Mydas*). "Australia occidentali."

*clavata* Macquart, 1850: 363(59) (*Mydas*). Australia, "côte orientale." [Preocc. Drury, 1773.]

*gracilis* Jaenicke, 1867: 353 (*Mydas*). "Australia." [Preocc. Macquart, 1834.]

*macquarti* Schiner, 1868: 153 (*Mydas*). NZ (NZ), error [= Australia].

**hackeri** Paramonov, 1950e: 25. Australia (Qld).

**melleipennis** Westwood, 1848a: 87 (*Mydas*). "Australia occidentali"; Australia (NSW, WA).

\*The derivation of the name *Mydas* Fabricius, the type genus on which the family name is based, is open to question, and has resulted in various familial spellings (Mydidae, Mydaidae, Mydasidae) (see note by Stone et al., 1965: 358). Until this problem of derivation can be resolved, the spelling Mydidae is used here in conformity with usage in previous regional catalogs. — Ed.

- clavigera* Walker, 1848: 229 (*Mydas*). "New Holland."  
*effracta* Walker, 1857: 126 (*Mydas*). "Australia."  
*flavipes* Thomson, 1869: 463 (*Harmophana*). Australia (NSW).  
**mitis** Gerstaecker, 1868: 73. Australia (WA); Australia (SA).  
**neogracilis** Hardy, 1949: 302. Australia (Qld).  
**nicholsoni** Mackerras, 1928: 540. Australia (SA).  
**paragracilis** Paramonov, 1955*d*: 134. Australia (WA).  
**tenebrosus** Paramonov, 1950*e*: 29. Australia (NSW).

### Subfamily APIOPHORINAE

#### Genus MILTINUS Gerstaecker

- MILTINUS** Gerstaecker, 1868: 88. Type species: *Miltinus cardinalis* Gerstaecker, 1868, des. Hardy, 1925: 142.
- atripennis** Paramonov, 1955*d*: 134. Australia (WA).  
**atripes** Paramonov, 1950*e*: 11. Australia (WA).  
**brunneus** Paramonov, 1961*d*: 105. "S. Australia."  
**cardinalis** Gerstaecker, 1868: 90. Australia (SA); Australia (Vic, WA).  
**cinctus** Paramonov, 1955*d*: 135. Australia (WA).  
**commoni** Paramonov, 1950*e*: 14. Australia (NSW).  
**confrater** Paramonov, 1955*d*: 134. Australia (WA).  
**dentipennis** Mackerras, 1928: 541. Australia (SA); Australia (Vic).  
**erythronotus** Paramonov, 1961*d*: 106. Australia (WA).  
**insularis** Paramonov, 1961*d*: 105. Australia (WA).  
**maculipennis** Westwood, 1841: 55 (*Cephalocera*). "Australasia occidentali"; Australia (WA).  
**minutus** Mackerras, 1928: 543. Australia (WA); Australia (SA).  
**musgravei** Mackerras, 1928: 542. Australia (SA); Australia (WA).  
**norrisi** Paramonov, 1950*e*: 15. Australia (WA).  
**parviduatus** Paramonov, 1950*e*: 16. Australia (WA).  
**rieki** Paramonov, 1950*e*: 19. Australia (NSW).  
**sordidus** Westwood, 1848*a*: 89 (*Mydas*). Australia (SA).  
*limpidipennis* Westwood, 1848*a*: 90 (*Mydas*). "Australia occidentali."  
**stenogaster** Westwood, 1841: 53 (*Midas*). Australia (WA).  
*bicolor* Westwood, 1841: 53 (*Midas*). Australia (WA).  
*haemorrhous* Gerstaecker, 1868: 89. Australia (WA).  
**tenuis** Mackerras, 1928: 542. Australia (SA).  
**varipes** Macquart, 1850: 362(58) (*Mydas*). Australia, "côte orientale."  
**viduatus** Westwood, 1835*c*: 281 (*Midas*). "Nôva Hollandiâ."  
*concinus* Macquart, 1846: 186(58) (*Mydas*). "Nouvelle-Hollande."  
*signata* Walker, 1857: 126 (*Mydas*). "Australia."  
*viduus*, error for *viduatus*.

#### Unplaced species of Mydidae

- incipiens** Walker, 1848*a*: 229 (*Mydas*). "New Holland?"