



## A review of the coastal marsh water beetle *Ochthebius queenslandicus* Hansen (Coleoptera: Hydraenidae)

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### Abstract

*Ochthebius* (*s. str.*) *queenslandicus* Hansen is taxonomically reviewed. The species is redescribed, male genitalia illustrated, distribution data given, and geographical distributions mapped. High resolution digital images of the holotype are presented (online version in color). *Ochthebius queenslandicus*, the only Australian member of the genus, is known from four widely separated coastal localities, near the cities of Perth, Darwin, Karumba, and Townsville; only 41 specimens are known. It is primarily a coastal marsh species that appears to be most closely related to a species in Thailand. Members of the subgenus are not yet known from areas between Thailand and Australia.

**Key words:** Coleoptera, Hydraenidae, *Ochthebius queenslandicus* Hansen, Australia, colonization, aquatic insects, aquatic microhabitats, holotype digital images

### Introduction

This is the seventh contribution in a series revising the Hydraenidae of Australia and Papua New Guinea. Previous papers have revised the genera *Gymnanthelium* Perkins, 1997 (Perkins 2004a), *Tympallopattrum* Perkins, 1997 (Perkins 2004b), *Limnebius* Leach, 1815 (Perkins 2004c), *Tympanogaster* Perkins, 1979 (Perkins 2006), *Hydraena* Kugelann, 1794 (for Australia) (Perkins 2007a), and *Hughleechia* Perkins, 1981 (Perkins 2007b). A revision of the remaining group, *Hydraena* (for Papua New Guinea), is nearing completion. About 25,000 specimens have been identified and databased, representing about 290 hydraenid species from Australia and Papua New Guinea. All revisions will include digital images of all primary types. An illustrated key to and synopsis of the genera of Australian and Papua New Guinean Hydraenidae will be presented following publication of the revisionary studies.

### Distribution, origin, and microhabitats

The morphologically diverse and speciose genus *Ochthebius* Leach, 1815 is nearly cosmopolitan, with most species being north temperate in distribution (e.g., Hansen 1998). In Australia there is only one species of the genus, *O. queenslandicus* Hansen, 1998 (a replacement name for *O. pallidipennis* Deane, 1931). This species is currently known from four very widely separated areas, all of which are coastal: near the cities of Perth, Darwin, Karumba, and Townsville (Fig. 6). *O. queenslandicus* is known from only 41 specimens, taken at 13 collecting events/localities. Three of these records are light trap collections, and most of the other records do not have ecological data. Fortunately, each locality is represented by at least one male; the form of the aedeagus varies only very slightly among the populations (Figs. 2–5).