



An endemic predaceous water beetle from the Murchison River in Western Australia—*Antiporus kalbarriensis* sp.n. (Coleoptera: Dytiscidae, Hydroporinae, Hydroporini)

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Abstract

Antiporus kalbarriensis sp.n. is described from the Murchison bioregion in Western Australia. The species appears to be restricted to backwater pools and oxbows along the Murchison River. Morphologically it is near *Antiporus bakewellii* (Clark, 1862) (Queensland, New South Wales), *A. jenniferae* Watts, 1997 (Northern Territory, N Queensland, NW Australia) and *A. simplex* Watts, 1978 (Queensland) but differs by the form of the median lobe, size and male proclaw. The habitat and its water beetle coenosis are described in detail. Additional distributional records for *A. bakewellii* and *A. jenniferae* are given. Altogether 15 species of *Antiporus* are now reported from Australia. The new species underline the importance of south-western Australia as a hotspot of diversity for Dytiscidae of the tribe Hydroporini Aubé, 1836.

Key words: Coleoptera, Dytiscidae, Hydroporinae, *Antiporus*, new species, south-western Australia, hotspot of diversity, Murchison River, backwater pools

Introduction

Predaceous water beetles were collected during two faunal surveys of the Pilbarra and Murchison regions in Western Australia in May and June 2001 by C.H.S. Watts and in August and September 2002 by L. Hendrich. The study of the rich material provided a number of new regional records as well as new species (Hendrich 2003, Watts & Leys 2008).

All members of the genus *Antiporus* Sharp 1882 (tribe Hydroporini Aubé, 1836) are distributed in still, or slow flowing water, mainly in southern Australia, along the east coast of the continent and with one species in the Northern Territory, north-western Australia and northern Queensland. A further species is widespread in different habitats in New Zealand. When last revised Watts (1997) described two additional species from the south-west of Western Australia, *A. pembertoni* Watts, 1997 and *A. hollingsworthi* Watts, 1997. Three additional species (*A. mcraeae* Watts & Pinder, 2000, *A. pennifolidae* Watts & Pinder, 2000 and *A. gottwaldi* Hendrich, 2001) have been described recently (Watts & Pinder 2000, Hendrich 2001).

The authors report on and describe another species which may prove to be restricted to a limited area along the Murchison River in Western Australia. Together with the new species described herein, 15 species of *Antiporus* are now known from Australia.

The Study area

The Murchison River is the second longest river in Western Australia and flows for about 780 km (490 miles) from the southern edge of the Robinson Ranges to the Indian Ocean at Kalbarri. It has a mean annual flow of about 200 million cubic metres. The Murchison River basin covers an area of about 82.000 km² in the Mid West region of Western Australia. It extends about 550 km inland from the Indian Ocean, onto the Yilgarn