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**Systematics, biogeography and host plant associations of the
lace bug genus *Lasiacantha* Stål in Australia (Insecta:
Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Tingidae)**

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Systematics, biogeography and host plant associations of the lace bug genus *Lasiacantha* Stål in Australia

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ABSTRACT

The Australian species of the lace bug genus *Lasiacantha* Stål are revised. The previously described species *L. discordis* Drake, 1955 and *L. leai* (Hacker, 1928) are redescribed. *Tingis aemula* Drake is transferred to *Lasiacantha*. Sixteen species are described as new to science: *L. aureolus* sp. nov., *L. darwini* sp. nov., *L. dysmikos* sp. nov., *L. ephemera* sp. nov., *L. eremophila* sp. nov., *L. gingera* sp. nov., *L. graminicola* sp. nov., *L. inaquosa* sp. nov., *L. kosciuszko* sp. nov., *L. luritja* sp. nov., *L. nipha* sp. nov., *L. pilbara* sp. nov., *L. quilpie* sp. nov., *L. serraseta* sp. nov., *L. vittata* sp. nov. and *L. windorah* sp. nov. *Lasiacantha compta* Drake is posited as *incerte sedis*. A key to species, phylogenetic analysis, and discussion of biogeography and host plant associations are provided.

Key words: Heteroptera, Tingidae, *Lasiacantha*, new species, new combination, phylogeny, biogeography, host plants, Australia

INTRODUCTION

Cassis and Gross (1995) documented the described lace bugs in Australia, recognising 147 species. Cassis and Bulbert (2004) in a key to genera of Australian lace bugs, diagnosed *Lasiacantha*. We revised the Australian endemic genus *Inoma* Hacker (Cassis & Symonds 2008), based on a continental-scale survey of true bugs in Australia (Cassis *et al.* 2007). In the former work, we maintained the generic status of *Inoma* and recognised its phylogenetic proximity to the Eastern Hemisphere genus *Lasiacantha* Stål, a species-rich lace bug genus with over 30 described species (Drake & Ruhoff 1965, Zoological Record 1965-present).

In this work we document all Australian species of *Lasiacantha*, including their distribution and host plant associations. In the process of recording their diversity, morphology, and extrinsic information, we have analysed their phylogenetic relationships, akin to our *Inoma* work (Cassis & Symonds 2008). *Lasiacantha* spp. are found